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14
Sunday comics



7 Arts & Entertainment
Stones roll into Moscow



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Chelsea lose, Man Utd draw

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Sources: Clinton may admit to sex with Lewinsky

By RON FOURNER

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the clock ticking toward his showdown with prosecutors, US President Bill Clinton's advisers are preparing for the prospect that he might acknowledge an "inappropriate" or "improper" relationship with Monica Lewinsky, advisers said yesterday.

Though no final decision regarding tomorrow's grand jury appearance has been made and other options are still on the table, three advisers said Clinton is coming under intense pressure from political circles to make a vague admission of an affair he has thus far denied — and then express regret for not coming clean sooner.

His lawyers are worried that any sort of concession to a relationship with the former White House volunteer would increase the president's legal jeopardy.

Clinton presidency rife with controversy, Page 6

Clinton faces allegations that he tried to cover up the alleged affair.

The advisers stressed that Clinton has not backed off his denials to them — even in private. But they said discussions about the possibility of doing so are taking center stage in the president's inner circle.

His unprecedented grand jury testimony will be a dramatic culmination of six months of sensational and titillating claims. Clinton's testimony could be a huge step toward political survival — or deeper peril.

One adviser involved in preparing the president for his testimony said Clinton was having trouble focusing on the



President Bill Clinton pauses yesterday after reading his weekly radio address from the Oval Office at the White House. (Reuters)

chore — easily distracted by world events, late-night card games, and a hankering for golf. Describing Clinton's spirits as high, the adviser said Clinton had not fallen into an old habit of sulking or blaming others for his plight. "He knows he can't blame anybody else. That's how he would lose the group" of advisers and aides who are helping him handle the crisis, said this longtime confidant.

Two advisers who have talked to Clinton or Hillary Rodham Clinton in recent days said the atmosphere is somewhat tense when the two are together, but the first lady has shown no obvious signs of anger. Indeed, she is a key player in the insular circle of top advisers.

Legal sources confirmed Friday that Clinton was discussing with his advisers a possible strategy for describing an intimate, perhaps sexual, relationship with Lewinsky.

See CLINTON, Page 3

N. Ireland car bomb kills 25

Blair calls worst attack in 24 years an 'appalling act of savagery'

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

OMAGH, Northern Ireland (AP) — A car bomb killed 25 people and wounded more than 150 yesterday in this religiously mixed market town.

A telephone warning had encouraged police to move people closer to the site of the blast, one of the worst atrocities in three decades of conflict in Northern Ireland.

The blast shattered a busy shopping street in Omagh, 110 km. west of Belfast.

The dead included an 18-month-old child, said Ronnie Martin, clinical services manager of Tyrone County Hospital.

"We have had men, women, and children slaughtered here this afternoon, slaughtered by murderers who wanted to murder, by murderers who have nothing else to offer — murderers who gave us a totally inaccurate warning," Ronnie Flanagan, Northern Ireland's police chief, told reporters in Omagh.

Martin McGuinness, chief negotiator for the IRA-allied Sinn Féin party, said the bombing was "intense."

"This appalling act was carried out by those opposed to the peace process. It is designed to wreck the process and everyone should work to ensure the peace process continues," McGuinness said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. A series of similar car-bomb attacks have been claimed by or blamed on IRA dissidents opposed to the outlawed group's July 1997 cease-fire.

An anonymous phoned warning conveyed to police indicated that the car bomb was placed outside Omagh's courthouse.

But the blast, about 40 minutes later — and some 20 minutes after police began evacuating civilians — caught the gathering crowd several hundred meters away, near pubs, shops, and a supermarket.



Royal Ulster Constabulary officers and firefighters inspect the damage from yesterday's car-bomb explosion in Omagh, Northern Ireland. (AP)

"Police moved everybody away from this area to where the bomb really was," said Nigel O'Kane, owner of a pub near the courthouse. "They cleared everybody away toward Market Street, then about 20 minutes later the bomb blew up behind them. It was awful — people running around crying. Nobody could believe it."

"I saw bodies lying everywhere, dead people being zipped into bags," said Dorothy Boyle, 59, who lives in the town. "There was one boy half his leg blown off and it was lying there with the wee shoe still on it. He didn't cry or anything. He was just in shock."

The attack came on the 29th

anniversary of the British government's decision to deploy troops in Belfast as peacekeepers between Protestants and Catholics. That decision triggered the rise of the modern-day IRA. It was also 17 days before US President Bill Clinton arrives to salute the province's peace agreement.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern pledged to "ruthlessly suppress" terrorist organizations that opposed Northern Ireland's new peace agreement, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair promised to pursue the bombers "to the utmost."

See BOMB, Page 2

Sarajevo comes to Omagh

ANALYSIS

By JIMMY DUNN

escaped. When a mainstream terrorist group like the IRA or its rival Ulster Volunteer Force is finally persuaded to call a halt to violence and go the way of peace, a shell of ultra-extremists who go their own way peels off. Just as for every PLO that cuts a deal, there rises a Hamas

phoenix that screams "no surrender."

Only 10 days ago the Protestant militant side in Northern Ireland issued a warning that the Belfast agreement would collapse if the IRA did not prove conclusively that the war is over and prevent its former members from moving to one of the splinter groups who have vowed to wreck the peace process — and who presumably planted the Omagh bomb.

The Progressive Unionist Party, the political wing of the Ulster

Volunteer Force, warned that if a single death resulted from an attack by splinter groups harboring IRA deserters, then the Protestant terror campaign would resume. The Omagh bomb therefore becomes everyone's worst nightmare come to life.

The outrage and outpouring of angry statements condemning the bombing are obligatory, but they are not enough.

See ANALYSIS, Page 2

Mofaz issues reprimands in Soujud incident

By DAVID RUDGE

The daylight infiltration of the Soujud outpost in the security zone by a Hizbullah gunman who then escaped alive was a "serious operational failure," Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz has determined. Mofaz, following his own summary inquiry into what has become known as the "Soujud fiasco," ordered that disciplinary action be taken against the paratroopers — an officer and two soldiers — involved.

He ordered the platoon commander dismissed and that the two soldiers should no longer serve as combat troops in the paratroop company.

He also instructed that reprimands be noted in the records of Brig. Gen. Erez Gerstein, head of the IDF's Lebanese Liaison Unit, regional brigade commander Col. Aviv, and battalion commander Lt. Col. Itai.

Mofaz determined that there had been flaws in preparing the paratroop unit for its mission in the area and the senior officers had not been sufficiently involved.

Mofaz conducted his own inquiry after receiving the report of Northern Command's investigation into the incident, which occurred last Sunday evening.

The inquiry was conducted in the presence of the platoon commander and the two soldiers, as well as senior officers from Northern Command, OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Gaby Ashkenazi, and the head of Grounds Corps Command.

The IDF Spokesman said that all details of the incident were examined in depth. These included how the Hizbullah gunman infiltrated the outpost and stayed for several seconds in one of the perimeter positions. During that period the gunman fired at one of the soldiers, grappled with another, then managed to flee, leaving behind his rifle and other equipment.

It is believed that two or more Hizbullah gunmen had approached the Soujud outpost, which is perched on a rocky escarpment, commanding a good view of the area. One of them climbed the cliff to reach the ramparts, clambered over or cut through the trench encircling the outpost. He then moved into one of the reinforced positions.

At least one of the soldiers fired and hit the Hizbullah intruder, but he was only lightly wounded and managed to escape.

Mofaz tries to instill fighting spirit, Page 2

ined in depth. These included how the Hizbullah gunman infiltrated the outpost and stayed for several seconds in one of the perimeter positions. During that period the gunman fired at one of the soldiers, grappled with another, then managed to flee, leaving behind his rifle and other equipment.

See MOFAZ, Page 3

July CPI falls 0.1%

By DAVID HARRIS

The consumer price index (CPI) fell 0.1 percent last month to 156.3, the first negative July index in 26 years, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Friday.

On the basis of the 2.1% increase in prices in the first seven months of the year, 1998 inflation is likely to total 3%-4%, bureau spokesman David Neumann said.

If that estimate is correct, this year will produce the lowest inflation rate since 1968, when the CPI showed a 1.9% rise. Only two years ago, the country was still experiencing double-digit inflation, but the tight monetary and fiscal policies have brought inflation well under control.

Attention in the Treasury and Bank of Israel has already turned to next year's inflation, with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman announcing a 4% target.

In the central bank, economists are convinced that the 1998 inflation course has already been fixed and now they must decide how best they will be able to meet Neeman's 1999 goal.

The main determinants of the decrease were falls in the costs of housing, clothing, and footwear,

offset to some extent by price rises for fresh fruit, transport, and communications.

Housing costs were cut 0.5% last month. Buying a house became 0.6% cheaper, while rental prices dropped 0.3%.

The clothing and footwear index decreased 5%, principally a seasonal fluctuation, said Neumann. Clothing prices dropped some 5.8%, while footwear was down 1.7%.

But the fruit and vegetable index showed a 1.5% rise. Fresh fruits generally were more expensive, while fresh vegetable prices were more attractive for consumers.

The biggest price hikes were in bananas (38.9%), peaches (32.2%), and oranges (22.8%), while the vegetables showing the most substantial price reductions were tomatoes (-1.2%), peppers (-12.3%), and corn (-11.9%).

Other foodstuffs saw a 0.3% price cut and there was no change in the household upkeep section of the index.

However all the other categories did show price rises: household furniture (0.2%), health services (0.7%), education, culture, and entertainment (0.5%), transport and communications (0.9%), and sundry others (also 0.9%).

Defector: Israeli bombing spurred Iraq's nuke program

NEW YORK (AP) — Israel's

destruction of an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981 spurred Saddam Hussein to accelerate plans to build a nuclear bomb, an Iraqi defector has claimed, and purchases for the program were made with the blessing of the UN nuclear agency.

Khudhir Abdul Abbas Hamza, once one of the top nuclear scientists in Iraq, told *The New York Times* yesterday that Israel's bombing of the Osirak reactor freed Saddam from having to develop the program in step with its cover, a peaceful nuclear energy program.

Saddam moved the program from Osirak and increased staff from 400 to 7,000 after Israel bombed the reactor in June 1981, Hamza said.

The program received as much as \$150 million a month in financing during the Iran-Iraq war, which otherwise devastated the Iraqi economy.

Hamza said he was amazed leaders of the alliance that defeated Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War failed to bomb nuclear weapons sites, indicating how little was known of the program.

Nuclear inspectors who assessed Iraq's nuclear program after the war found that Iraq was one or two

years away from building a bomb — not 10 years, as had previously been suspected.

Hamza, who defected from Iraq in 1994, said that many of the nuclear program's purchases were made with the blessing of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The UN agency's inspectors failed to ask even basic questions, "like why an oil-rich nation like ours wanted nuclear power," Hamza told *The Times*.

Iraq slams US for threats of force, Page 5

A spokesman for the IAEA told *The Times* that under conditions holding in Iraq before the war, the inspectors were only permitted to inspect sites declared by the Iraqis.

Hamza's revelations come 12 days after Iraq shut down its cooperation with UN weapons inspectors.

In letters last week to the Security Council, the IAEA chief and his counterpart inspecting chemical and biological warfare warned that the

suspension allows Saddam the opportunity to rebuild his programs.

The Security Council termed the suspension "totally unacceptable," but failed to announce any action. In February, Iraq backed down after a similar suspension brought the threat of military action from the US and Britain.

Foreign companies which sold Iraq components for its nuclear weapons program would often offer to help cover up the purchases to make them look like they were intended for peaceful purposes, Hamza said.

He told *The Times* that the nuclear program included a reactor purchased from France, an Italian fuel reprocessing facility, an IBM mainframe computer, and Swiss machine tools.

In 1987, he said, it almost bought a complete foundry to forge uranium and other components from Leybold and Degussa, two West German companies.

A spokesman for Degussa told the newspaper that both companies were cleared in a criminal inquiry by German authorities.

Hamza said Saddam used torture — and vast rewards — to keep the scientists in line.

NEWS

in brief

Top Hamas militant escapes from Palestinian jail

Top Hamas member Imad Awadallah, jailed by the Palestinian Authority since April, escaped yesterday, a senior Palestinian security official said.

Awadallah was apprehended on suspicion of shooting dead Hamas master bomb-maker Muhi Sharif. The PA said Sharif was killed in an internal power struggle.

Sharif, who was accused by Israel of masterminding a string of deadly suicide bombings, was found dead on March 29 beside a car that blew up in Ramallah.

Palestinian legislators who have visited Awadallah in detention say he has denied any connection with the killing. *Reuters*

Threat briefly clears US embassy in Switzerland

The US Embassy in Bern was evacuated for around two hours on Friday after an unidentified caller issued a threat that authorities treated as a bomb warning, police said.

"There was a threat that something would happen at 5 p.m.," a Bern police spokesman said. "The police had to assume this referred to a bomb threat. The embassy was evacuated, the surrounding area was sealed off, and a nearby bathing area was also evacuated."

Staff were allowed back into the building at around 6 p.m. *Reuters*

PM demands action on threats to judges

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Friday with Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to insure that the police are taking all necessary steps to protect judges, following recent threats against them, including the planting of a bullet in the pocketbook of Beersheba Magistrate's Court Judge Hanna Slotki.

Netanyahu demanded a serious approach to the incidents, which he said threaten Israeli democracy. *Itim*

Haredim demonstrate against restaurant again

Some 200 haredim demonstrated yesterday in Jerusalem's Rehov Hanavi'im against the Fresco restaurant, which is open on Shabbat and serves non-kosher food.

The haredim tried to block the road, but were pushed back by police.

A small group of Meretz activists staged a counter-demonstration.

Since the restaurant, which borders on the Mea She'arim neighborhood, opened earlier this summer, there have been periodic haredi demonstrations against it. *Itim*

Foreign Ministry sets up restitution unit

The Foreign Ministry will establish a special panel on the restitution of Jewish assets due to an impression among some of the public that Jewish organizations pushed the government aside in the negotiations with the Swiss and that the government was not sufficiently involved in the discussions.

In a statement released on Friday, the ministry said it "had felt criticism in a number of countries and is paying a diplomatic price over a matter with which it is almost completely uninvolved."

The team is to be chaired by Gideon Meir, the ministry's adviser on Diaspora affairs. *Liat Collins*

Indians, Israelis search for missing tourists

Consul-General in New Delhi Ruth Gat travelled to northern India over the weekend to join the search for missing Israeli tourists Hila Macani and Na'ama Boaz. The women had been hitching a ride on an Indian army truck which was swept away in floods last week. The bodies of several of the truck's passengers have been found.

A busload of volunteers, including Israeli tourists and Macani's relatives, is assisting India's official search party. The Shiloh Harel insurance company also has sent a search party to northern India. *Itim*

Seven injured at Luna Park

Seven people were lightly injured last night on a roller coaster at Tel Aviv's Luna Park. One of the cars on the roller coaster stopped and the car behind it slammed into it. Four of the injured were taken to Ichilov Hospital; the others were treated at the scene. *Itim*

Six hurt in family feud

Six people were wounded yesterday afternoon when a disagreement between two families in Jerusalem's Abu Tor neighborhood turned violent.

The families threw stones at each other's cars, breaking their windows, and several people were stabbed.

Policemen and border policemen broke up the fighting and are investigating the incident. *Itim*

Man drowns in Kinneret

A 21-year-old from the Ramallah area drowned on Friday while swimming in the Kinneret. The man, who was with a group of friends, disappeared suddenly. His friends alerted police, who found his body yesterday morning.

The group had entered Israel from the territories without obtaining permits. Their driver was arrested and they were sent back to the territories yesterday evening. *Itim*

Man dies after car overturns; pedestrian killed

Mohammed Na'im, 24, of Tashiba, died in Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday afternoon of injuries suffered in a car accident near Moshav Ein Ya'acov the previous night. His car had overturned.

In Ramla a pedestrian was killed Friday morning when he was hit by a truck backing out of the central bus station. The driver was taken for questioning.

Seven people were lightly injured yesterday afternoon when two cars collided at an intersection near Acre where the traffic light was out. One driver apparently also ignored a stop sign. *Itim*

Baby hurt in spat between families

An 18-month-old boy, his five-year-old brother, and their father, 40, were lightly injured in an argument between families in the Achziv Park, north of Nahariya yesterday afternoon. The family had gone to the park from their home in Netanya and got into a fight with another family over the use of a picnic table. Police were called, but by the time they arrived, the second family had fled.

The three were examined at Nahariya Hospital and released. *Itim*

'Four Mothers' to pitch tent opposite PM's home

The Four Mothers movement, which is pressing for the peaceful withdrawal of IDF troops from Lebanon, plans to pitch a protest tent opposite the Jerusalem home of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu today.

"The aim is to remind the public that the situation in Lebanon is still not quiet," said movement activist Masha Sheindorf. "We also want to remind the prime minister that since the cabinet decision to adopt the [UN Security Council Resolution] 425 initiative, nothing has changed."

David Rudge

AMIC expresses deep condolences to
Honorary National President
Dvorah Masovetsky and family
on the passing of
M. BERNARD RESNIKOFF
Robin S. Kahn Evelyn Blachor
Chairwoman, Israel Executive Board National President

Mofaz tries to instill fighting spirit

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz is not prepared to let Hizbullah's 300-man guerrilla force fester like a sore on the exposed body of the IDF in southern Lebanon.

"We need to stress the value of victory. The combat units in the IDF need to know that victory is a necessary virtue and that no compromises will be tolerated when it comes to contact with the enemy," Mofaz said last week.

He was speaking just hours before a sole Hizbullah fighter revealed the kind of IDF "fighting spirit" Mofaz wants to expunge.

He was clearly disgusted with two facts about last week's fiasco: that a Hizbullah guerrilla was able to penetrate an IDF position and

that he was able to escape.

It was not the first such dismal encounter between Israeli and Hizbullah gunmen since Mofaz took over July 9. On July 30, Hizbullah guerrillas ambushed an IDF patrol, killing one soldier and wounding five others who barely returned fire. The Shi'ite gunmen escaped without casualties.

In an IDF version of a high school football coach pep talk, Mofaz wants to motivate the Israeli trooper. He apparently wants to sweep out what he sees as years of accumulated mediocrity. If he didn't feel as if the Israeli soldier lacked fighting spirit, he wouldn't have mentioned it.

Mediocrity is no virtue. Furthermore, in Mofaz's eyes,

ANALYSIS

intellect, learning, and skill is not enough. He wants blood.

By dismissing several young officers and banishing some paratroopers from the brigade, Mofaz was sending a message to the troops in Lebanon and elsewhere that blood, Hizbullah blood, counts. By censuring the senior commanders he was laying at their feet the need to instill the still.

Still, cynics say, the behavior of the paratroopers and other troops in Lebanon is to be expected,

given the mixed messages soldiers hear back home and the way they are trained on base.

The IDF does not issue bayonets or combat knives to its troops, nor does it drill them seriously in hand-to-hand combat. Instead, they are given foam "ambush mattresses" to make those long nights in the bush more comfortable. Israeli soldiers are trained to stop the enemy with only one finger, the trigger finger. But, obviously, yelling for help when coming face-to-face with a Hizbullah guerrilla is not the correct procedure.

When Mofaz laid out his credo to military reporters he stressed more than once what will likely become his mantra: "I see the IDF

as a fighting organization more than anything else."

"I am aware of the changes in Israeli society," Mofaz said. "It is no secret that there is a change in the sense of threat most Israelis feel and that we are super sensitive to casualties, not to mention the intrusive media and parental involvement."

Still, Mofaz wants a vigorous ruthless realist who parenthetically strives to exercise his power within the confines of morality. "We don't need to heap more values upon ourselves. Just maintain the ones we have," Mofaz said.

Mofaz wants a revival of the fighting spirit, he is prepared to push "nice" Israeli soldiers "beyond good and evil."

PA says it didn't agree to talks

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NABIS

The Palestinian Authority denied yesterday reports of an imminent resumption of negotiations with Israel on IDF redeployment in the West Bank as senior officials again called on the US to release its bridging proposals on the implementation of the interim agreements.

Nabil Amr, adviser to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, said yesterday that Arafat had responded to another message from US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. In response to Albright's call for more talks with Israel, Arafat asserted that previous negotiations were not fruitful.

"The negotiators informed [the leadership] that the talks of the last few weeks did not achieve any progress," Amr, newly appointed as minister to serve as liaison to the Palestinian Legislative Council, told reporters. PA International Cooperation and Planning Minister Nabil Shaath agreed.

"We are in an almost total freeze," he said. "There has been almost no [movement] in coping with the American proposal."

Arafat, who met with Norwegian envoy Terje Larsen in Ramallah, again called on Albright to release the US's bridging proposals that call for a 13.1 percent Israeli handover of the West Bank to the Palestinians. PA sources said Arafat has been told by the Clinton administration that this will be done soon.

Arafat's message was echoed by the Palestinian leadership at a meeting on Friday night, where ministers asserted that Israeli-Palestinian talks have reached a dead-end. In a communique the Palestinian leadership called on Washington to assume responsibility and save the peace process from collapse.

The communique also accused Israel of establishing "armed militias of settlers" in the territories that aim to terrorize Palestinians and confiscate their land. They said such a move hurts Palestinian security and "endangers their lives and property."

Later, Arafat was quoted as saying: "The US should present its initiative and present a detailed report concerning the obstacles which led to the freeze of the peace process and place the responsibility for the deadlock on Israel."

The Palestinian institutions warn Israel against its policy of delays and its tactics, the goals of which are to create the false impression around the world that there was progress in the talks."

Arafat convened his new cabinet for the first time since the PLC approved it last week. He praised the cabinet and said it should prepare for the challenges that would face the PA and Palestinian people as they prepare to declare an independent state in May.

In the communique, the Palestinian leadership pledged to immediately implement reforms in all ministries. Hanan Ashrawi, Abdul Jawad Salah and Salah Tamari, all of whom have joined the cabinet, did not attend the session. Ashrawi was replaced by Miftah Abu Atta, from Beit Sahar, who pledged to institute reform in his new post as head of the Tourism Ministry. Ashrawi, PA sources said, resigned from the cabinet because she objected to moving from her previous job as higher education minister to tourism minister. Ashrawi took responsibility for the Tourism Ministry during the illness of then-tourism minister Elias Freij, who died last year. Ashrawi inherited Freij's running conflict with the ministry's director-general Abdullah Hijazi.

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

The architects of the Irish peace accords will have to look beyond the blood-stained marketplace and the funerals and understand that the edifice they constructed is swaying from a terrorist earthquake. They must pray that the foundations are adequate.

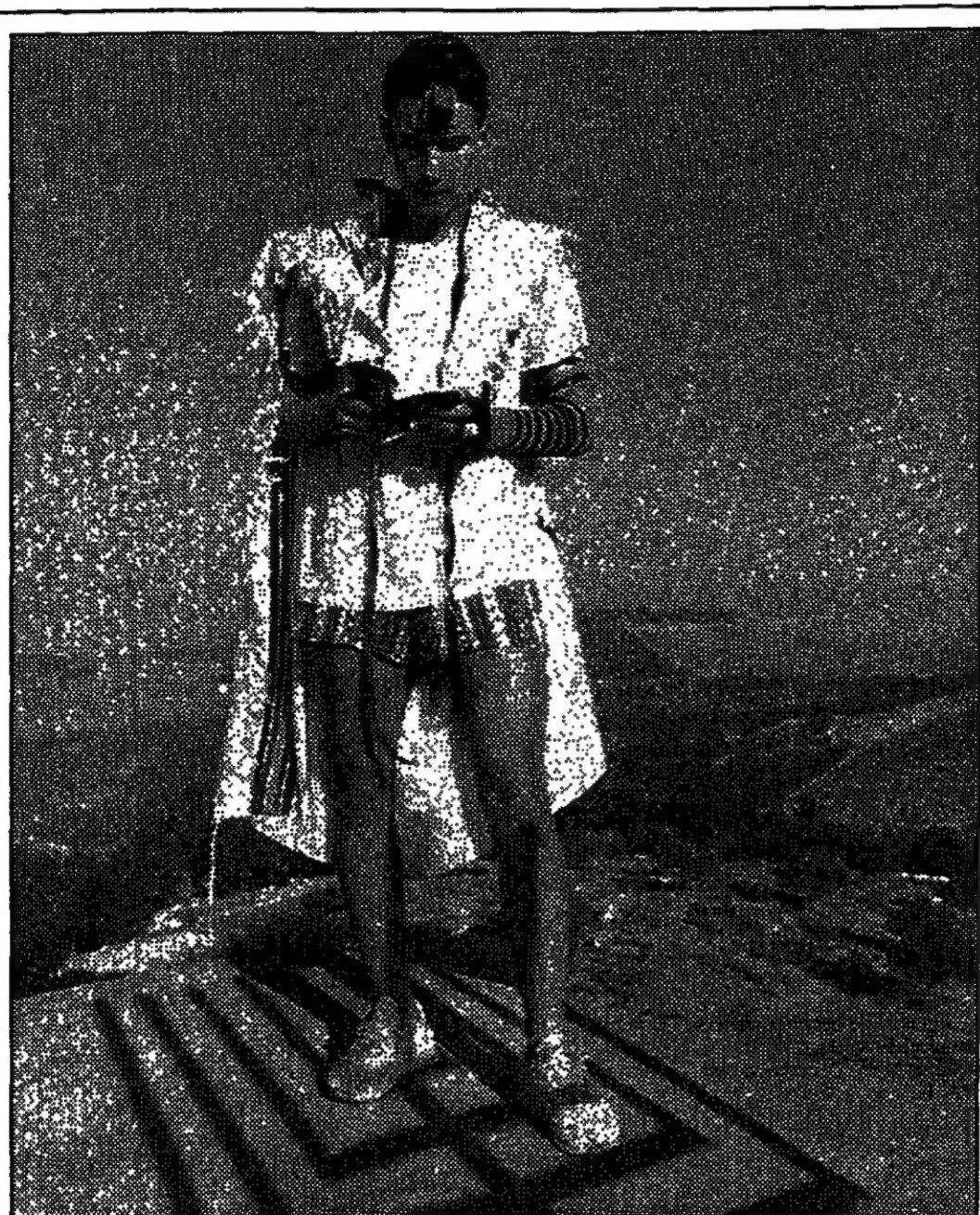
Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Mo Mowlam was criticized last week for trying to cut a prisoner-release deal with the splinter Loyalist Volunteer Force and the Irish National Liberation Army, two of the most virulent opponents of the peace treaty, in return for their joining the cease-fires.

The criticism was misdirected and even more urgent action is needed to splinter the splinters while public fury against them is at its height.

If the Northern Ireland peacemakers cannot destroy the unreformed

terrorists quickly, they will again face the same Hydra-headed monster that has bedeviled Northern Ireland for decades. Back in the 1970s, the "Old IRA" retired from armed struggle and its "Provisional" splinter became simply "the IRA."

If the politicians — and the former militants who have opted for peace — cannot stop the splinters from again becoming the mainstream in a rising tide of terrorism, the Omagh bombing will condemn all of them to live in a Northern Ireland transformed into a never-ending Bosnia.



In the shadow of history

Lionel Bismuth of Paris says his morning prayers last week at the Jewish National Fund's Yatir Forest near Arad. He is one of thousands of Jewish youth from Israel and abroad taking part in JNF summer camp programs. (Joe Malcolm)

Environmentalists turning green over proposed planning changes

By LIAT COLLINS

The reported plan by Interior Minister Eli Suissa to remove the representatives of environmental groups from the planning committees has met with fierce opposition from members of those groups, the Environment Ministry and the Knesset Interior and Environment Committee.

"It's an unprecedented attempt to leave planning committees in the hands of politicians and ministerial representatives and prevent professional monitoring by groups representing the public," said Yoav Sagi, chairman of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel.

Sagi is the representative on the National Planning and

Construction Council of Life and Environment, the umbrella group of all the environmental NGOs.

"It's another attempt by Suissa to eradicate the planning process he is responsible for as minister."

"Following the failed attempts to revive the expedited building permits in the face of massive public opposition, the minister is seeking other ways of turning the planning bodies into the rubber stamp of real estate dealers," he continued.

According to the reports, Suissa also wants to cut the period for the public to file objections to a plan in half, to 30 days from 60.

Environment Ministry spokesman Yiftah Kramer said the ministry "opposes the idea totally and will do everything possible to

frustrate it. Without the 'green' representatives on the councils the country will within a few years be covered with concrete, garbage and sewage."

MK Micha Goldman (Labor), chairman of the Knesset Interior Committee, said the committee members would "have no part in such a move."

Former environment minister Yossi Sarid (Meretz) called the suggestion "a national scandal."

Interior Ministry spokeswoman Tova Ellinson said the decision has been made in principle to try to reduce the numbers of representatives on the planning bodies to make them more efficient. But, she added, the minister has not yet decided which representatives should be taken off the councils.

BOMB

Continued from Page 1

Witnesses described a scene of rubble, bodies in the street, and blood-streaked survivors frantically searching for friends and family. Roofs had been blown off several buildings, and wreckage was strewn across the street.

"I've just met a man who has lost his wife and he's worried about his two children as well, who were with her. It's terrible that human beings could do this to each other," said Joe Byrne of the moderate Social Democratic and Labor Party, who recently won a seat in Northern Ireland's Assembly.

"It was a scene of absolute devastation," Paddy McGowan, a member of the local council, told Sky News. "You could hardly imagine all that was left of some of the shops I had visited earlier this afternoon. It was a scene of carnage."

Erne Hospital in Enniskillen reported receiving 47 wounded, while Tyrone County Hospital in Omagh reported "dozens and dozens" of casualties.

Queen Elizabeth II, in a statement released by Buckingham Palace, said she was "shocked to hear of the appalling crime in Omagh," and she conveyed her condolences to townspeople.

"This is an appalling act of savagery and evil by people who are determined, whatever the cost to innocent people, to wreck the prospects for peace in Northern Ireland," said Blair, who was vacationing in France.

"We will pursue them to the utmost in order to bring them to justice for this terrible deed. These people will never be allowed to win."

The worst previous toll from a bomb attack in the British-ruled province occurred on August 27, 1979, when the IRA killed 18 soldiers at Warrenpoint.

The IRA killed 21 people in Birmingham, England, when it bombed two pubs on November 21, 1974.

The worst one-day toll in the conflict was the 22 people killed immediately by pro-British loyalists who set off three car bombs in Dublin on May 17, 1974. More people died later, bringing the total death toll to 33.

US worker gets \$2.2m. over antisemitic slurs

By TOM TUGEND

A jury in Los Angeles has awarded \$2.2 million to a former employee of a major defense contractor, who said his supervisors called him a "cheap Jew," among other antisemitic slurs.

Jeffrey Graber, 41, testified he was frequently harassed during his nine years with Litton Guidance and Control Systems, Los Angeles Times reported.

In a typical incident, Graber said,

supervisor Jean Wood called him a "cheap Jew" for not contributing to a Christmas gift. Another time, when Graber said he had gotten a good deal on a watch, Wood observed that he "must have Jewed [the seller] down."

The jury reportedly found each of the three supervisors liable for \$10,000 in damages. The jury also assessed Litton \$555,092 for loss of wages and emotional distress, and more than \$1.6 million in punitive damages.

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Cotti: Deal has nothing to do with government

ZURICH (Reuters) - President Flavio Cotti of Switzerland was quoted yesterday as saying he understood why big Swiss banks settled Holocaust victims' lawsuits over dormant wealth, and he reiterated that the deal had nothing to do with the federal government.

"The banks stated it clearly: They were in a difficult situation," Cotti told the mass-circulation *Blick* newspaper in an interview in his first public reaction to this week's \$1.25 billion settlement.

"So I understand completely why they chose this way to resolve the problem of their civil lawsuits and their position in the important US market."

The settlement, which capped three years of acrimonious confrontations between Swiss banks and Jewish groups over banks' handling of Holocaust victims' assets, headed off threatened bank boycotts by several US states and cities. It also freed the Swiss government and industry, and the

Swiss central bank from Holocaust-era claims.

But the government and Swiss National Bank (SNB), the central bank, had not asked the commercial banks to negotiate on their behalf with Jewish groups and lawyers for Holocaust victims.

The federal government has consistently ruled out using Swiss taxpayers' money to help fund any accord. The SNB, under fire for its wartime pur-

chases of looted gold from Nazi Germany, has refused to comment on whether it will allocate money for the deal.

"Our strategy includes coming to grips with history and setting up the Solidarity Foundation," Cotti was quoted as saying.

He was referring to a panel of historians which the federal government has empowered to review the neutral country's World War II past and to an envisioned humanitarian fund to be

financed by selling 500 tons of excess Swiss gold reserves, if voters agree.

"We can ascertain now that this strategy has proven itself. And I can sense how the Swiss people support it," he said.

Cotti insisted the federal government would press ahead with plans for the Solidarity Foundation - a body which aims to aid victims of disasters, poverty and rights abuses - despite the banks' settlement and

a separate 270 million Swiss franc (\$180m.) humanitarian fund that banks and businesses set up last year to help needy Holocaust victims.

"With their settlement, the banks are resolving a problem from the past," Cotti told the paper. "The Solidarity Foundation is a work for the future... The foundation fits in well with our country's humanitarian tradition."

He added that it would be a mistake to halt the panel of his-

torians' review of Switzerland's wartime role as a financial center with close ties to Nazi Germany.

"We need clarity about our history in our own interest," he was quoted as saying. "And if the pressure from the United States now abates, as I hope, then this will help the climate for a factual discussion, a discussion that should be conducted not just by experts, but by all interested citizens."

Holocaust victims' heirs reach compromise on stolen art

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The grandsons of two Holocaust victims and a Chicago art collector have reached a "Solomonic" settlement over a stolen Edgar Degas painting, only weeks before the opening of a trial that was expected to set the precedent for the recovery of Nazi-looted art.

The heirs of Friedrich and Louise Gutmann will share ownership of the Degas pastel "Landscape with Smokestacks" - now valued at \$1.1 million - with pharmaceuticals magnate Daniel C. Searle, who bought the painting for \$850,000 in 1987.

The suit, in a US federal court in Chicago, would have weighed the rights of what experts called two innocent parties - the Nazi victims' heirs and the present buyer.

Searle, a benefactor of the Chicago Institute of Art, contended that he bought the Degas in "good faith" and was unaware of its Holocaust-era history.

The Degas was among the art works looted from Friedrich Gutmann, a German Jewish banker who was beaten to death in Theresienstadt. His wife, Louise, died in Auschwitz.

Under the terms of the agreement, which was reached August 7, Searle will donate the Degas to the art institute. Gutmann's grandsons, Nick and Simon Goodman, will then "sell" their share of the Degas to the museum for half of the work's fair-market value.

Gutmann's grandsons, who live in Los Angeles, had been trying to recover the art since they learned in 1995 that it was in the US. Their father, who lived in Britain, had spent his lifetime looking for the



The heirs of two Holocaust survivors and an Art Institute of Chicago benefactor will share Edgar Degas' painting, "Landscape with Smokestacks".

Gutmann art in Europe.

The institute, which plans to exhibit the pastel this fall, will install a plaque that says it is a "purchase from the collection of Friedrich and Louise Gutmann and a gift of Daniel C. Searle."

A number of acclaimed museums, such as New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Seattle Art Museum, are also facing disputes

over the ownership of some of the art they exhibit.

A prominent New York case, involving two paintings by Egon Schiele exhibited at MOMA, has created an especially awkward situation in the Jewish community, whose elites have become leaders in the museum world.

At the end of December, two families had appealed to MOMA

and its chairman, Ronald Lauder, to detain the paintings, contending that they had been plundered from their families by the Nazis.

Lauder, a former US ambassador to Austria, also heads a commission of the World Jewish Congress whose mission is to recover art confiscated from Jews during World War II.

Citing legal obligations to the

present owner, the Austrian government, MOMA refused to detain the paintings. They subsequently were seized by Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau until their ownership could be determined.

Morgenthau appealed a February court ruling that said he must release the paintings, which remain in New York.

CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

These sources argued his sworn denial of "sexual relations" with Lewinsky was technically truthful under a tortured interpretation of the definition provided to Clinton during a deposition in Paula Jones' sexual harassment case. That case has since been dismissed.

Under their scenario, Clinton would refuse to provide details he considers private, but would signal to the grand jury and later the nation that the relationship went beyond mere friendship, the source said.

Yesterday, it was learned that the scenario has taken hold among some of the president's hard-line advisers. One confidant has long urged Clinton to not utter a word about the relationship, and only to deny having ever committed perjury. Though that option is still on the table, the adviser said Clinton is also seriously considering telling the public more.

"He might use phrasing like an 'improper relationship,'" the source said.

Advisers say the language of a possible explanation is already being discussed. Indeed, there is concern about using the phrase "improper," because Clinton specifically told reporters in January he did not have an improper relationship; some advisers have suggested the word "inappropriate."

Going down this road creates another problem for Clinton: Why didn't he acknowledge it sooner? That's why some advisers think Clinton also must express regret for prolonging the presidential crisis.

Indeed, the advice flowing to the president has ranged from a complete confession to a steadfast reiteration of his earlier denials.

Even if he provides the public with little or no new information about his relationship with Lewinsky, a legal source who consults with Clinton said the president may well be forced to tell the grand jury more.

Recent polls give them reason to hope. A Newsweek survey conducted August 13-14 showed that only 24 percent of the respondents will think worse of Clinton if he admits to a sexual relationship.

MOFAZ

Continued from Page 1

The outpost was under the command of the platoon leader, while the company commander was involved in another mission and was not present.

According to one report, the platoon commander did not order his troops to pursue the gunman because he first wanted to make sure that none of the soldiers had been kidnapped.

"The infiltration of the terrorist into the position should have been prevented. From the moment the terrorist penetrated the outpost, it was necessary to make contact

with him and kill him," Mofaz determined.

He said it was an abnormal incident, especially in light of the excellent combat abilities shown by troops in the Northern Command, the Paratroop Brigade, and 101st Battalion during operational duties in Lebanon in recent years.

"In the battle with the enemy, there are no compromises," he said.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah has continued to exploit the incident for propaganda purposes - even staging its own video version, showing a lone gunman entering a position, and running away with a LAW anti-tank rocket.

Analysts: Jordan aiming to pacify Syria

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Jordan's diplomatic overtures to Iran have been aimed at easing tensions with Syria, according to analysts in London at the weekend.

They believe this was the motive for last week's hastily arranged visit to Tehran by Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani.

The stated purpose of the visit was to deliver a letter to President Mohammed Khatami on "means of strengthening relations and cooperation" between the two countries.

Iranian-Jordanian relations have been tense since the start of the

1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, when Jordan supported Iraq. The two states also differ over the peace process and Iran's territorial dispute with the United Arab Emirates.

The Saudi-owned daily *Al-Hayat* Friday quoted Jordanian officials as saying Anani's talks covered economic cooperation and Jordan's outstanding debts to Iran.

The Iranians also sought the closure of the Amman offices of the Iraqi-backed Mujahedin-e-Khalq rebel group, which has maintained an office in Amman for many years but has been prohibited from using Jordanian territory for anti-Iranian military activities.

Anani did not indicate whether Jordan would comply with Iran's

request, but it quoted informed officials as saying that Jordan continues to pursue a policy of caution with regard to Iran, despite the apparent rapprochement that followed Khatami's election.

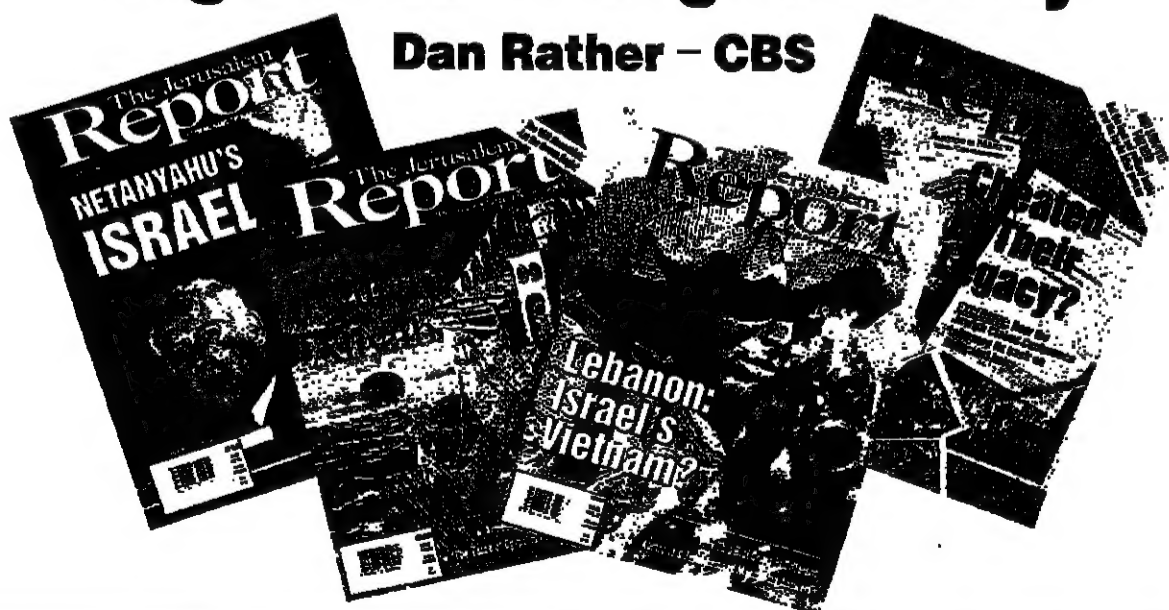
Iran's minister of religious affairs, Ayatollah Mohajerni, who is also the official government spokesman, is expected to visit Amman early next month for talks with Jordanian officials.

Meanwhile, another London-based Arabic-language daily, *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, said in a news analysis that Jordanian foreign policy makers believe an improved rapport with Iran will serve to contain "serious tensions" between Jordan and Syria.

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Danish police stop attack on neo-Nazis

COPENHAGEN (Reuters) - Danish police said they used tear gas to halt an attempted attack on a neo-Nazi gathering at the headquarters of Denmark's National Socialist Party (DNSP) in southern Copenhagen yesterday.

Some 150 of a total of 500 people attending an anti-fascist rally 500 meters away rushed over the outer perimeter of barriers erected by police, throwing stones at the building.

Nobody was injured, but many people, including bystanders and peaceful demonstrators, suffered irritation from the tear gas clouds, Ritzau news agency reported. Early in the morning, some 130 neo-Nazis staged a short march and held a 30-minute rally with speeches in an annual event commemorating the late German Nazi leader Rudolf Hess. The neo-Nazis soon returned to the DNSP headquarters. Their demonstration did not cause any disturbances, police said.

Danish, German, and Swedish police have cooperated throughout the past week to stop neo-Nazis trying to enter Denmark to join the gathering, which has been held annually since 1995 in Denmark, which has liberal laws allowing nearly any kind of demonstration.



Some 150 neo-Nazis march through Greve south of Copenhagen yesterday to mark the death of Rudolf Hess. (AP)

Needy US survivors can file this week for fund payments

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Needy Holocaust survivors in the US will be able to file applications this week for payments from the 270-million franc Swiss humanitarian fund - nearly 18 months after the fund was established.

The humanitarian fund is separate from the \$1.25 billion settlement reached last week with the Swiss commercial banks, although the fund's sluggish history could curtail the role of Jewish organizations when that settlement is distributed, sources said.

The American survivors will divide, in equal portions, \$32 million from the humanitarian fund.

The amount of individual payments will be dependent on the number of applicants, who will "self-declare" if they are needy.

The Israeli portion - \$39m - has been delayed by disagreements between the government and survivors regarding who will oversee the fund.

Unlike the Americans, Israeli survivors are expected to face a needs test to qualify for payments.

The American announcement, expected tomorrow in Manhattan, will be made by the World Jewish Restitution Organization, which allocates the humanitarian fund to Jewish survivors.

Since it was established in March 1997, the humanitarian fund has been plagued by technical and administrative problems as well as by political bickering over allocations.

Last week, Credit Suisse and UBS settled class-action lawsuits brought by tens of thousands of survivors, joined by the WJRO. The settlement calls for the banks to pay \$1.2 billion.

In turn, all Swiss banks, including the Swiss National Bank, and the Swiss government and industry would be released from future claims. The settlement still needs final approval from US Federal Judge Edward Korman.

Berlin mayor against memorial for Holocaust at Brandenburg Gate

BERLIN (AP) - Berlin's Mayor Eberhard Diepgen is against constructing a Holocaust memorial at Brandenburg Gate in Germany's capital and says he will recommend to the city senate that it reject the idea. Der Tagesspiegel newspaper said yesterday.

Diepgen, a member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative Christian Democrats, called the design of the planned memorial by American architect Peter Eisenman "overdone," and not suitable, the newspaper said.

Berlin's leftist Social Democrats in the senate, who largely support the memorial, have charged that Diepgen, who runs the city in a coalition with them, is using the memorial theme for political purposes.

Tagesspiegel, in an early release of a report to appear in today's edition, quoted Diepgen as saying, "We surely won't let the smaller coalition partner force their will in this question."

Diepgen said his party will offer alternative suggestions for a

Holocaust memorial when the city senate takes up the subject at a session set for August 25.

Eisenman's proposal for a labyrinthine field of stone pillars resembling a cemetery was scaled down at the request of Kohl, who has been the strongest supporter of a Holocaust memorial in Berlin.

But after years of debate, a final decision on the memorial still hasn't been made, although Kohl has said that step would be taken before the national elections on September 27.

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Foreigners flee Congo

Rwanda rebels ready to march on capital

By NICHOLAS PHYTHIAN

KINSHASA (Reuters) — Foreigners prepared to leave the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo yesterday, after Rwandan-backed rebels said that they were grouping in the west to march on the city.

The US Embassy in Kinshasa was shut down yesterday and its 20 remaining staff flown out of Congo, the State Department said. Diplomats said the US flew out 130 foreign nationals on Friday, including around 50 Americans.

France said it began evacuating foreign nationals from Kinshasa yesterday after receiving clearances to take them by barge across the Congo River to neighboring Brazzaville.

Belgian and Britain implemented contingency plans to evacuate their citizens if necessary.

President Laurent Kabila, whose whereabouts had been unclear since Wednesday, was in the second city of Lubumbashi, capital of his home province of Katanga, an aide said. State radio said the government would meet there.

In Kinshasa, state media and government officials played down talk of rebel advances and residents reported little sign of extra military activity.

Kabila accuses former allies Rwanda and Uganda of fomenting and fighting in the revolt, launched on August 2 by soldiers from Congo's ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge minority in the east of Africa's third largest nation.

In the center of Kinshasa, the sprawling capital that is home to about six million people, around 2,000 of his supporters, some brandishing spears, marched to the music of a jazz band and chanted nationalist slogans.

"No Americans, No French, No Tutsis," they shouted. Women marchers exchanged V-for-Victory



Supporters of Congo President Laurent Kabila march yesterday to UN headquarters in Kinshasa to demonstrate against alleged attacks by Rwandans, which they say are supported by France and the US.

salutes with passing soldiers.

Thousands of Christians and Moslems held separate rallies in the city to pray for peace.

In London, the British Defense Ministry said a 190-member marine commando unit left yesterday for Accra in Ghana to provide help if needed to rescue Britons from the Congo.

Rebel spokesmen say they will march on Kinshasa after regrouping in the key river port of Matadi, less than 400 km from the capital.

State radio and television dismiss reports that rebels hold the giant Inga dam, which supplies electricity to Kinshasa. Kabila's government blamed a 20-hour power cut on Thursday and Friday,

which cut water supplies and shut down fuel pumps, on a technical fault at Inga.

Rebels, who control several towns at the end of the western Congo River corridor linking Kinshasa to the sea, say they hold the dam and switched power back on to prevent hardship, particularly in Brazzaville.

The foreign ministers of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, and Tanzania, mandated by a summit

attended by Kabila in the Zimbabwean resort of Victoria Falls on August 8, arrived in Kinshasa on Friday for talks and to investigate Kabila's charges that Rwanda and Uganda had invaded.

NEWS

in brief

Sophia Loren in New York hospital for a few days

ROME (AP) — Actress Sophia Loren, 63, is being treated for a few days at a New York hospital after falling ill on a flight from Los Angeles and will skip a trip to Venice next month for an award, Italian news media yesterday quoted family members as saying.

RAI state TV and radio and well as private Italian network Canale 5 said her family in California issued a statement on Friday saying she is recovering from a "light cardiovascular" problem.

Milan daily *Corriere della Sera* quoted her producer-husband Carlo Ponti as saying in an interview from his L.A.-area home that he informed Venice Film Festival officials his wife won't be able to attend the September 3 ceremony to give her a career award.

Mir crew docks safely after last-minute failure

KOROLYOV, Russia (Reuters) — A Soyuz space capsule manned by two cosmonauts and a Russian bureaucrat docked manually with Russia's Mir space station yesterday after an automatic system failed at the last moment.

Similar hitches have occurred before, one of them involving the arrival of a new crew a year ago, but yesterday's technical flaw highlighted the uncertainties aboard Mir 12 years after it began orbiting the earth.

Flight director Vladimir Solovoyov told reporters that Mission Control outside Moscow ordered a manual docking when Mir's automatic system failed as the arriving Soyuz capsule was just 12 meters out.

Pope clicks into cyberspace

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) — Pope John Paul moved into cyberspace yesterday when his noon address was broadcast live for the first time via the Internet.

But not all surfers managed to get beyond the home page of the Vatican website — www.vatican.va — to see the pontiff speak from his summer residence south of Rome on the Feast of the Assumption, users reported.

The new service will enable the world's billion Roman Catholics to see and hear the pope recite his Angelus prayer, hold his general audience, and take part in other ceremonies in the Vatican and abroad.

Fosset breaks another personal record

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Millionaire adventurer Steve Fosset broke his second personal record — distance traveled in a balloon — as his round-the-world quest continued yesterday without sign of slowing down.

Shortly before 1200 GMT, the Chicago financier was traveling southeast over the Indian Ocean, about 590 kilometers west of Australia, in his bid to become the first person to fly nonstop around the globe in a balloon. Solo Spirit lifted off August 7 from Mendoza, Argentina.

His ground crew at Washington University in St. Louis burst into applause two hours earlier upon learning that he had traveled 16,865 km., breaking his own world distance ballooning record of 16,672 km., set in January 1997.

Iraq slams US for threats of force

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Iraq lashed out at the United States yesterday for saying it was ready to use force against Iraq.

"These hollow US threats will be ridiculed, opposed and rejected by the American people and the people of the world at large," said a spokesman for the Iraqi Information Ministry.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said on Friday that the United States would use force if necessary to counter any threats from Iraq. Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon said that US forces in the Gulf were ready to protect interests of the United States.

"Both officials contradicted themselves when they threatened to commit aggression against the Iraqi people to protect US interests," the Iraqi spokesman said.

"At the same time, they claimed that the present crisis... is between Iraq and the United Nations", the

spokesman added.

The *Washington Post* reported on Friday that the Clinton administration had intervened secretly for months to dissuade UN weapons teams from mounting surprise inspections in Iraq, because it wished to avoid a new crisis.

Albright accused Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, who last month ordered an end to cooperation with the inspectors, of trying to pick a fight with the US.

"He wants to create a US-Iraq confrontation. This is an issue between Iraq and the United Nations," Albright said before meeting Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura.

"But let me make also clear that, if necessary, we will use force on our timetable, in response to threats, at a time and place of our choosing," she told reporters.

Still, the administration's cautious response to Saddam's latest challenge contrasts with its

approach during a previous crisis late last year, when it threatened massive military action to end Iraq's mass destruction weapons programs.

Albright said Washington consulted with UN weapons inspectors working in Iraq, but denied she had given instructions to UNSCOM chairman Richard Butler. She said it was up to him "where, when and how" he made his inspections.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said: "We have been talking with [UNSCOM] about the best way to perform their mission — timing, outcome, best way to achieve their mission — but we don't order them not to conduct their mission."

In New York, UNSCOM denied that Butler had been given "external direction" regarding the commission's operations.

UN sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait

cannot be lifted until the Security Council is satisfied that all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been destroyed.

Iraq insists this has now been achieved and is demanding an end to the embargo. The United Nations says the sanctions will remain until it can verify that all Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological programs have gone.

The *Washington Post*, quoting US and diplomatic sources, said Albright urged Butler on August 4 to rescind orders for his team to mount surprise inspections at sites where intelligence reports suggested there might be banned weapons components. It said that after a further high-level contact with Washington last Friday, Butler cancelled a planned special inspection at two sites and ordered his team to leave Baghdad.

Kenyans bury dead as probe inches forward

By DAVE CARPENTER

NAIROBI (AP) — While the investigation to unmask the mystery bombers in East Africa entered a second week without firm answers, Kenyans buried their dead yesterday and sought to endure their "undeserved grief."

The FBI says it will take another month or more to finish examining the scenes of the August 7 bombings at US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 257 people and injured more than 5,500.

While graves were dug in the red earth in a Nairobi cemetery, casting their work in poignant perspective, helmeted investigators continued poking through rubble next to the embassy. Others pored over evidence in tents nearby.

A British forensic team was on the way to aid the FBI's 215 agents, lab examiners, evidence technicians, computer specialists, photographers, and translators in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

Bombing evidence was expected to arrive at the FBI laboratories in Washington over the weekend for tests to confirm what explosives were used and whether the two bombs had the same ingredients.

Police here are working on new leads they hope will enable them to trace the vehicle used in the bombing — a yellow pickup truck or van — which local reports say was apparently bought locally shortly before the attack.

Investigators have declined to discuss specifics of the probe. Employees at one Nairobi car

dealership said Friday that police had called in the firm's owner for questioning the previous day. What he said was not immediately known.

In a videotaped message, US President Bill Clinton extended condolences to the victims' families, saying: "We grieve together. Violent extremists try to use bullets and bombs to derail our united efforts to bring peace to every part of this earth."

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced she will leave today for the two East African capitals to meet with investigators and console the injured. Her four-day trip amounts to a show of support, and a declaration of US resolve in the face of terrorism.

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Clinton presidency rife with controversy, scandal

BACKGROUND

By PATRICIA WILSON

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Energy, expectation, and an air of excitement greeted Bill Clinton's arrival on the national political stage in 1992, masking the whiff of scandal already wafting about his infant presidency.

Six years later, the nation is holding its collective nose as Clinton prepares to testify tomorrow about his relationship with twenty-something intern Monica Lewinsky, the sordid denouement in a long-running melodrama.

The election of baby-boomer Clinton, a handsome, dynamic, and brilliant man with just the right mix of liberal Democratic credentials, ushered in a new era for Americans after 12 years of conservative Republican rule in the White House.

The man was not without flaws. His political ambition bordered on obsession, his appetite for the physical and spiritual was legendary.

But he showed such promise and exuded such charisma that voters — not once, but twice — put aside any nagging questions they might have about character and controversy by somehow rationalizing any shortcomings as not mattering or not interfering with his job performance.

Even before he won election in November 1992, Clinton and his aides had to douse the brushfires

of scandal, including reports that while a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University in England, he had dodged the Vietnam draft and smoked marijuana, and then as governor of Arkansas had indulged in a long-running affair.

The candidate handled each masterfully, turning aside the drug charge by saying he did not break any US laws and, anyway, "I did not inhale." He defused the sex allegation with an artful television interview in which he admitted causing pain in his marriage but denied a 12-year relationship with Gennifer Flowers.

But his presidency was barely months old when the sparks reignited.

Just weeks after taking office, Clinton provoked a storm of controversy with his policy on gays in the military and the appointment of his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton to lead an ill-fated effort to reform the nation's health care system.

Then the White House fired seven employees in the travel office in an attempt to replace them with Clinton associates, setting off what became known as Travelgate.

In July the same year, close confidante, longtime Arkansas friend and White House counsel Vincent Foster drove to Fort Marcy Park in Virginia and shot himself, sparking rampant right-wing speculation about murder plots and cover-ups.

Several investigations concluded Foster had committed suicide, but criticized the White House's



US President Bill Clinton, with his wife Hillary, delivers his strongest public denial, at a White House press conference on January 26, that he had an affair with former intern Monica Lewinsky. (Reuters)

handling of his death.

There followed in quick succession Filegate, the request by Clinton aides for confidential FBI background documents on hundreds of people, mostly

Republicans; the death in a plane crash of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, who was under investigation for possibly using trade missions for political influence; and Whitewater, the root of so many of

the president's problems. Independent counsel Kenneth Starr has spent four years and \$40 million investigating the Whitewater land deal Clinton and his wife invested in during the

1980s, widening his probe to include the FBI files controversy, Foster's suicide, and eventually the Monica Lewinsky sex and perjury allegations.

Along the way, the road has been littered with political casualties and potted with lurid tales from women who claimed to have had liaisons, welcome or otherwise, with Clinton.

Close friend Webster Hubbell was forced to resign as associate attorney general amid a probe into his billing practices while a partner with Hillary Rodham Clinton at an Arkansas law firm. He later pleaded guilty to fraud in the Whitewater inquiry.

Susan McDougal, the Clintons' partner in Whitewater, was convicted and sent to prison. She later refused to answer whether Clinton knew of the illegal loan at the heart of the real estate fraud and was jailed for contempt of court.

Bill Clinton testified on videotape in Whitewater-related trials. Hillary Rodham Clinton was subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury about some long-missing records sought by investigators that suddenly turned up almost two years later on a table in the White House private quarters.

Since Clinton took office, seven independent counsels have been named to investigate charges of high-level wrongdoing and many are pushing for an eighth to untangle allegations of campaign finance abuse in 1996.

As Congress and Clinton opponents raged on about shady deals,

foreign threats, and influence peddling, the public largely yawned. All the while, Paula Jones waited in the wings to set in motion the one scandal that truly rocked Clinton's presidency.

When she filed suit for sexual harassment in 1994, claiming Clinton had made crude sexual advances in an Arkansas hotel room when he was governor, most dismissed her as little more than a fortune-hunting nuisance.

"Drag a \$100 bill through a trailer park and there's no telling what you'll find," said Clinton aide James Carville.

But Jones' case went forward. Depositions were taken from other women recounting the tawdry details of their alleged encounters with Clinton and leaked to the media. One, Kathleen Willey, spoke on national television of being pawed by the president in the Oval Office.

Clinton himself was forced to give a deposition in which he denied under oath having sexual relations with several women, including Lewinsky. The 25-year-old former White House intern also denied the affair, but later recanted after Starr granted her immunity from prosecution for perjury.

Lewinsky, according to sources, told the grand jury earlier this month that she and Clinton had sex about a dozen times, but said he never explicitly asked her to lie about it, setting up the classic he-said she-said scenario when the president testifies.

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סוכר מן הארץ

Southern exposure

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

For the past 25 years, the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba has proudly kept the classical music flame alive in the southern part of the country.

The Sinfonietta is the only orchestra that plays in Arad, Kiryat Gat, Dimona and Ashkelon, not to mention an ongoing series in its home town. And this coming season (which opens at the middle of September) the orchestra will also perform regularly in Ness Ziona and Eilat.

Music lovers in central Israel should not despair; the Sinfonietta will also perform a concert series in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

In Beersheba, the orchestra presents a 10-concert series and a light-music series of six concerts. This coming season the opera series, which has been a major part of the orchestra's season, will be replaced by a two-concert light vocal music series. From these varying programs, series are arranged for the rest of the country. This year's season will feature the classics in a repertoire peppered with occasional baroque and contemporary Israeli music. The season both opens and closes with a major Israeli composition, suggesting that although the Sinfonietta tries to please with an easy-listening repertoire, it does pay dues to Israeli composers.

Haim Perlmutter's harp concerto will be played by Adina Haroz at the season's start, and a new opus by Oded Zehavi will premiere at season's end.

In its major concert series, over the course of the season, the orchestra plays music by Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Brahms, Chopin and others. The light classical series includes music by Villa Lobos, Piazzolla, Handel, Pergolesi and Vivaldi. The light vocal classics series features an evening of Viennese operetta and a program of Russian delights.

Among the soloists are pianists Boris Berman and Elena Bashkirtseva, violinists Julian Rachlin and Guy Bramstein, and singers Nora Amsalem, Larisa Temeva and Susanna Poretsky, as well as many of the Sinfonietta's own musicians.

Raining Stones in Moscow

By GREG MYRNE

Still strutting and sneering, Mick Jagger brought the Rolling Stones to their first concert in Russia, and the band played through a driving rain before an appreciative crowd of tens of thousands.

The Stones first applied to perform in Moscow more than 30 years ago, but never received permission until Tuesday night's concert at Moscow's Luzhniki sports stadium.

The band came on stage playing their classic "Satisfaction," and mixed other old standards such as "Honky Tonk Woman" and "Start Me Up" with recent material such as "Anybody Seen My Baby?" and "You'll Never Make a Saint Out of Me." The crowd was made up mostly of young Russians, but also included plenty of middle-aged fans and Russian boys who sang along with every song in English.

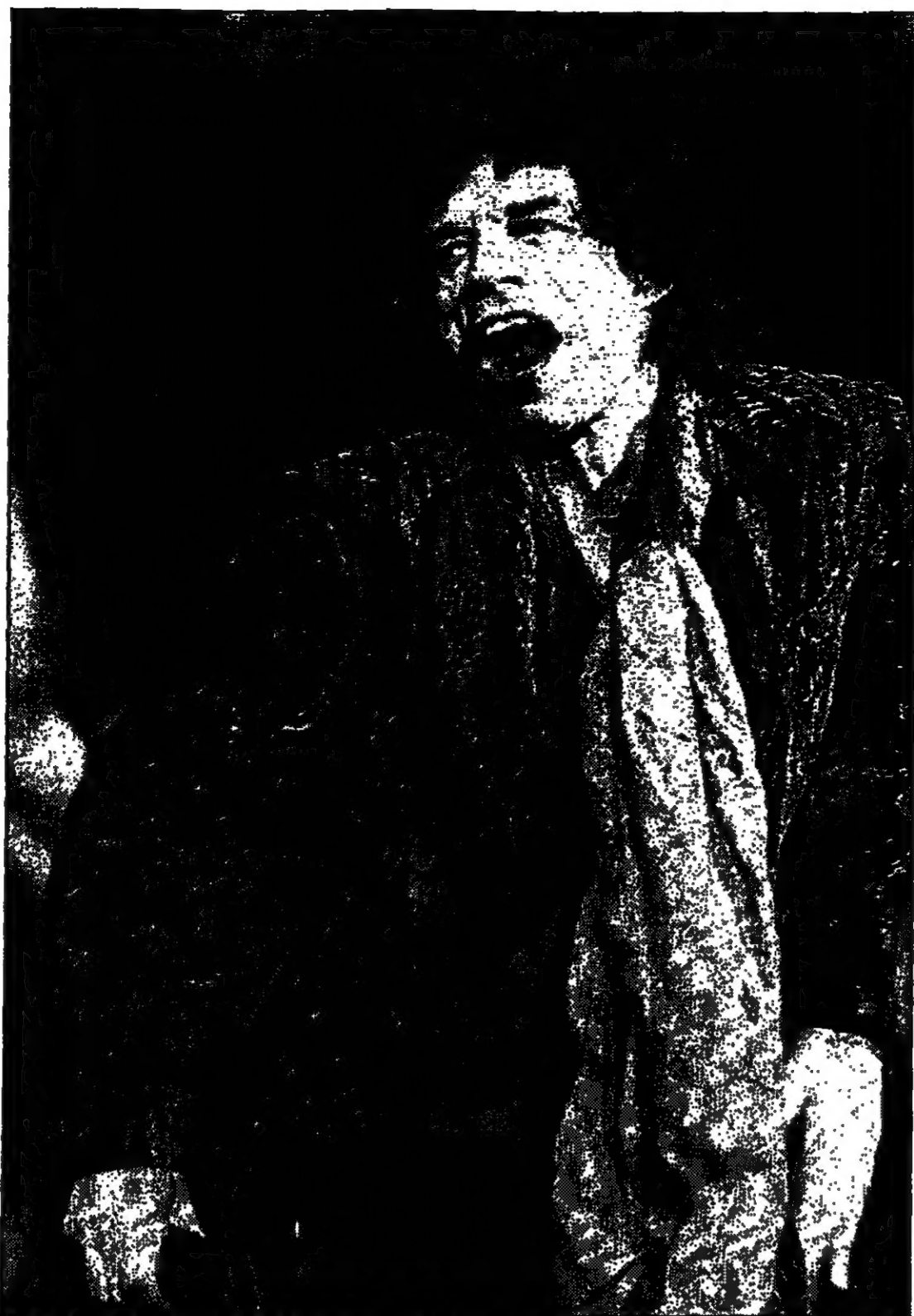
A steady, heavy rain started shortly after the concert began, drenching the fans as well as the Stones in the partly covered stadium. The only concession to the weather came when Jagger and Ron Wood put on hats.

Jagger pranced from one end of the stage to the other, full of mischievous energy, at one point removing a shoe and sucking on the toe of a female backup singer in the middle of "Miss You." The IFLAR-Tass news agency estimated more than 70,000 people attended the concert. Russian TV showed fans who said they had come from as far as Siberia just to attend the show, part of the Stones' "Bridges to Babylon" tour.

"It's our youth," pop singer Alla Pugachova, Russia's most famous contemporary entertainer, said before entering the stadium. "It's a wonderful time." The Stones first applied for permission to play in the Soviet Union in 1967. Soviet officials went to watch them play a concert in Warsaw, but didn't like what they saw.

"They thought the show was so awful, so decadent, that they said this show would never happen in Moscow," band leader Mick Jagger said at a news conference on Monday.

"Anyway, things have changed," he added. "We're thankful to be here at last." (AP)



Jumpin' Jack Flash: Mick Jagger in concert as the Rolling Stones make their Russian debut. (Reuters)

Avishai Cohen leads new renaissance



By Barry Davis

When Avishai Cohen left the familiar, but parochial Israeli jazz scene for the States in 1992, he was very much the proverbial young man setting out into the relative unknown with his musical belongings neatly wrapped up in a spotted - if not blue-and-white - kerchief.

ADAMA
Avishai Cohen
(MCI)

ORIGIN
Chick Corea
(MCI)

But just six years down the road, Cohen has not only chalked up contributions to the hands of such illustrious well-knowns as keyboard specialists Danilo Perez and Chick Corea, he has now produced an impressive debut album called *Adama*. *Adama* is full of the vibrancy and freshness one would naturally expect of a first effort. However, what catches the listener's attention is not only the seamless incorporation of a wide range of styles in the dozen tracks, it is the crispness of sound and tightness of production which gives one the feeling that Cohen has attained a musical maturity far beyond his 27 years.

Of course, it can help to have someone like Chick Corea on board as co-producer and occasional participant on Fender Rhodes.

But, as Cohen himself said, his input to the album was not a critical factor, simply because there wasn't the need - Cohen knew exactly where he wanted his band to take him long before he set foot in the recording studio.

Nonetheless, the very first whiff of the CD reveals an undeniable Cohen influence in some of the motifs, with '70s-style fusion firmly threaded into a cohesive tapestry of post-modern jazz, which ranges from bebop to swing, and from cool to "ethnic" jazz.

With a plethora of line-ups, such as East-West Ensemble and Habbra Habbra, producing now quite commonplace intercultural musical pastiches, one could be pardoned for balking at the prospect of an old making an appearance on three of the tracks. After all, what could be more "natural" than an Israeli musician-made-good in the US offering his mostly Western audience a "taste of home"?

But that he is able to do so with consummate fluency only serves to substantiate the overriding sense that Cohen has come of age.

Cohen's cohorts on *Adama*

supply their leader with excellent service. While Steve Wilson's soprano sax playing often puts one in mind of a young Wayne Shorter, Steve Davis (trombone), Jeff Ballard (drums), Jason Lindner (piano), Danilo Perez (piano) and Amos Hoffman (guitar and oud) provide the tightest of support, and are obviously in complete unison with the musical concept.

Cohen is one of a veritable stable of young Israeli musicians currently plying the highways and byways of the American jazz scene with increasing success. Other names to watch out for, in the bass section, include Barak Mori and Omer Avital - the latter having recently signed a contract to record his first CD for Impulse.

Trombonists Rafi Malkiel and Avi Leibo, and guitarist Ofer Gan-Or are also making waves in the "big, outside world." Gan-Or currently earning his crust as a member of Ron Carter's band.

This is an impressive debut album, and one which augurs well for Cohen's musical future, and for our listening pleasure. For those who thought that the Israeli jazz mini-renaissance of a decade or so ago had petered out, think again.

Avishai Cohen also makes an appearance on Corea's latest release - *Origin* - alongside two other Adama colleagues, Davis



Avishai Cohen

and Wilson.

This differs altogether from the Israeli effort.

First of all, this is a live recording - made at the close of last year at New York's Blue Note Jazz Club - and very little groundwork had been squeezed in before the group took the stage.

The band, also called Origin, had only existed for a couple of months prior to the recording, and had managed just three gigs at Van Dyck's and a brace of rehearsal sessions by way of preparation.

There is, consequently, a rough-and-ready and unpolished feel to the disc's seven tracks. Even the design of the CD cover - produced by Cohen himself - conveys a sense of simplicity, something one might rustle up in half an hour on any semi-sophisticated design software package.

While some may enjoy the virgin ambience of the album, others may feel that Cohen has produced more creditable work than Origin.

Cultures connect in dance of the desert

By HELEN KAYE

Connections. That's why dictatorial regimes are so afraid of the arts.

Takes *Nomades* - Israel, which has its world premiere on Wednesday in the auditorium of the Nevef Ofer Cultural Center in the shabby south Tel Aviv neighborhood of that name.

Nomades is a dance by French choreographer Anne-Marie Ponnas. The dancers are members of her own company and from that of Israeli choreographer/dancers Liat Dror and Nir Ben-Gal, who are celebrating their group's 10th anniversary.

The composer is Israeli-born Amram Amar, who grew up in France and whose love and expertise is world music. The musicians are the four-member Divana group from Rajasthan in North India, the Alayev family who immigrated to Israel from fabled Samarkand, Yair Dailal whose family came from Morocco, and so on.

All these people mixing together, learning about each other's cultures and histories, mingling, creating and (ssshhh!) getting along -



'Nomades - Israel' features French and Israeli dancers.

probably the most subversive activity in the world today.

Nomades is about nomads and the desert. Ponnas has been making works about both since 1993 when she created *Mouvements sur Terre* de Ciel about the Blue Men of the Sahara. In 1995 she collaborated with Amar on the first part of *Danse Nomade, Fils du Vent*, about the Gypsies, willy-nilly wanderers still.

"The desert has fascinated me

forever, even though I've never gone deeper than just its edges, in Morocco, Niger and the Thar desert in Rajasthan," says Ponnas. "I think it is the purity, the absolute - we went to Masada yesterday - and the desert also symbolizes connection. There is nothing there but earth and sky."

WE STARTED out as a desert people, as wanderers, and that thought may have occurred to Dr. Shosh

Avigal of the Tel Aviv Municipality when she saw the second part of *Danse Nomade* at Montpellier. She suggested that Ponnas create an Israeli version.

"This *Nomades* is based on the original," Ponnas owns, "but the Israelis have made a difference. They bring something of their own with them."

"The original was for eight dancers. Here we have 12. I have created a duet for two of the Israelis and we have taken a dance from the original but set it to a Yemenite tune."

Amar, who has worked with choreographers for 25 years, is responsible for the musical wizardry which makes a whole of melodies from so many different cultures while still retaining the characteristics of each.

He suggested the current blend, having already worked with Divana on *Danse Nomade* where they collaborated sweetly with a Periphan group of Gypsy musicians who'd worked on *Fils du Vent*.

"The connection is not harmonic, but melody and rhythm," he observes, explaining his arrangements. "And of course there's the

subject matter. We have 10 songs in the piece, all having to do with people's reaction to and relationship with the desert."

Ghazi Khan Barna of Divana, mustachioed and smiling, plays drums and the karnal, very probably the ancestor of the castanets, because these came to Spain with the Gypsies; it's supposed that they originally came from his corner of the world, which borders the Thar desert.

Marwali is the dialect spoken in that area of Rajasthan, and he learned the music he plays and sings from his father, who learned it from his father.

He and his fellow musicians are Moslems but "we play mostly Hindu music because that's where most of our custom is. We know about 5,000 songs."

Two of the songs in the show have to do with Gypsy (*banjara*) women singing to their men.

In one, a woman wishes her man a long life as he sets out on his journey. In the second, a woman is homesick for the rocks and sand of her desert home but loyalty to her man keeps her where she is.

Connections.

Meir Ariel knocks on heaven's door

Sabra Sounds



By Shal Tsar

If Meir Ariel ever had to write out a job description, it would probably read "troubadour."

DOORS OPEN
BY THEMSELVES
Meir Ariel and Charisma
(NMC)

One of the elder statesmen of Israeli rock 'n' roll, Ariel clearly works in the Dylan tradition.

Yet he is also one of the hardest-to-categorize figures on the local music scene. His music runs the emotional gamut between haunting and silly, occasionally within the same song.

In addition to his songwriting, Ariel is known for his strange, somewhat contradictory, and

always outspoken political beliefs. At one point he even ran for public office.

Ariel is generally at his best in front of a live audience. Like Matt Caspi, he has a good rapport with the crowd, amusing them with stories and routines between songs. At its best moments, Ariel's new live album, *Dilat Nifhot Me'arman* ("Doors Open by Themselves"), captures this rapport. On the other hand, it leaves the listener wanting more.

Recorded in July 1996 at the now-defunct Hard Rock Cafe in Tel Aviv, *Doors Open by Themselves* features Ariel backed by the band Charisma, a collection of Ariel's musician buddies. These include guitarists Mickey Shaviv and Yehuda Edner and keyboardist Moshe Levi.

Interestingly, the band also features Yoav Kutner - better known as a DJ on Army Radio - playing congas and singing backup. Ariel and Charisma work well together, sounding like a tighter-than-average garage band.

The disc features lively versions of Ariel's best-known songs such as "Terminal Luminant" (a tune about a man obsessed with airports; don't ask) and "Goldberg Fields." Ariel seems clearly relaxed with the setup,

and the band members seem to be enjoying themselves as they riff along behind him.

In addition to the Greatest Hits stuff, Ariel also performs some covers of English-language tunes. This includes, notoriously, a happy rendition of "Don't Bogart the Joint" from the movie *Easy Rider*.

Here, as with many of the songs, Ariel curiously goes back and forth between Hebrew and English. He starts off singing a song in one language then goes over the same verse again in the other. For some reason, this makes him sound like a local trying to chat up a female tourist on the beach.

The liveliest part of the disc comes when Ariel starts giving the audience an anti-election speech, influenced by his semi-serious Knesset bid in 1992.

He begins by naming some of the reasons people didn't vote for him back then ("I'd make you learn Arabic in the third grade"; "I'd make you stop talking with your hands") and lists some reasons people won't vote for him in the future ("Because things will run easily, and well").

The speech is droll and shows why the man is so much fun in live performance. Unfortunately, it is one of the only bits of audi-

ence interaction on the disc, and the only extended one at that. The disc could have benefited from a few more examples of Ariel having fun with the crowd.

On the other hand, one cannot criticize the choice of songs on the disc.

Ariel shows his troubadour roots with a 10-minute version of "Our Forces in Suez Had a Quiet Night," a reminiscence of being stationed at the canal after the Six Day War.

The song owes a lot to Dylan, and Ariel and the band tip their hats to the man himself with the closing piece, a Hebrew version of "Knocking on Heaven's Door." The translation of the song is surprisingly good and the performance quite raucous.

While *Doors Open* by Themselves does not capture all the magic of Ariel's live show, it still does a good job highlighting the man's strengths as a performer.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEK	WEEK	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	EVAL GOLAN	CHAYAL SHEL AHAVA
#2	2	VIA	WOW
#3	3	EMMA SHAPPLIN	CARMINE MEO
#4	10	VIA	JUBILEE CELEBRATION
#5	5	BOAZ SHARABI	KESHEAT NOGA'AT BI
#6	4	VIA	HITMAN 9
#7	8	DANA INTERNATIONAL	DIVA
#8	6	ALABINA	ALABINA
#9	12	VIA	ALABINA LEMACHIL
#10	17	MICHA SHEETRIT	MASHMERIM VNOTZOT
#11	20	DANA BERGER	PASHUT LECHYOT
#12	9	RITA	TACHANOT BAZMAN
#13	RE	HAIM MOSHE	HATMUNUT SHEBA'ALBOM
#14	RE	ETHNIX	BRUCHIM HABAIM LE YISRAEL
#15	RE	ARIEL HOROVITZ	YALLA BAI

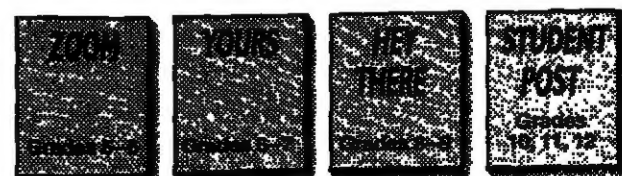
Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

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Not tea with the queen

A portrait of the US diplomats killed in last weekend's terror attack reflects the less-than-glamorous lifestyles of most Americans serving in embassies abroad, Peter Slevin writes

Among the Americans killed in the Nairobi, Kenya, terrorist bombing, the names carried few lofty titles; their shoulders bore no epaulets. Many of their job assignments sang less of diplomatic caviar than of bureaucratic bread and butter: "executive assistant" and "administrative employee" and "security guard."

The death list, numbering 12 Americans, reveals much about life today in a US embassy, a world where old-school diplomacy is more imagined than real, its place taken by daily bustlings of a more prosaic sort. Tea with the queen is not.

Two of every three American workers in a typical US embassy do not even work for the State Department, the department estimates. They are attached to other government agencies, such as the FBI, the Commerce Department and the Defense Department.

From Guatemala to Ghana to Greece, there are local political movements to monitor, economies to measure and visas to issue. But still more employees do the work of offices everywhere. They keep the books, tend the computers and make sure the motor pool runs on time.

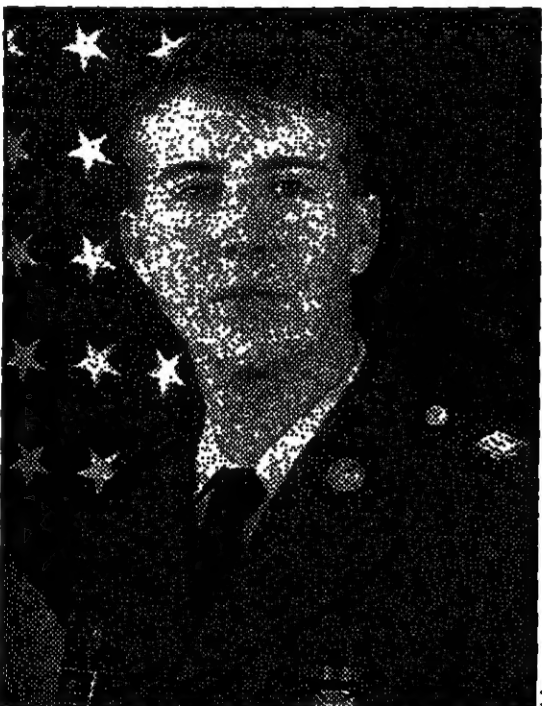
In less developed countries, you find people whose job it is to keep water running to a building," said one 14-year veteran of Mexico City, Warsaw and Moscow. "You have people who are loading jerrycans full of water so staff can go home and cook at night. In countries where there are gasoline shortages, someone makes sure there is gas."

Ann Michelle O'Connor, who died in Nairobi, was a budget officer. Jean Dalizu was a secretary in the Kenya-US liaison's office. Louise Martin was a veterinarian and epidemiologist with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"A majority of people in most embassies are not your Ivy League stereotypes in striped pants who went to Princeton," said a career diplomat who has served in Russia, Honduras, Peru and Nicaragua. "Most of the people, especially in a big embassy, are support personnel."

In the fairy tale version, however, life in the diplomatic corps means a whirl of crisis meetings at the Foreign Office and cocktails in the embassy garden.

"I liked the idea of having the government pay for me to live overseas. That sounded like fun," said a State Department personnel officer who has served in five countries from Costa Rica to Kuwait during an 18-year career.



The 12 American bombing victims included Louise Martin (seen with her husband, upper left), Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Sherry Lynn Olds (upper right), seen posing with Rev. Jesse Jackson and an unidentified woman, Sgt. Kenneth R. Hobson II (lower left) and Molly Hardy. Most US overseas employees do regular office and maintenance work.

"It turned out in some cases to be life-threatening." This officer, who like others was not cleared to

speak on the record and requested anonymity, recalled early duty in the consular service, where she

visited Americans in foreign jails and helped grieving relatives identify corpses in the morgue.

Nor is everyone an aspiring emissary to the Court of St. James.

"They're just regular folk, trying to pay their mortgages and get their kids through school," the career diplomat said.

One long-serving European specialist talked of the way diplomacy itself has changed from the days when the very concept hinted of great power and intrigue. Diplomacy was often a private, high-stakes game to which few were issued an invitation.

These days, the relations among nations and the work of embassies take place on a hundred different levels. Almost anyone can play, from small companies to international conglomerates to freelance groups that aim to do good works. The change is reflected in the more than 250 US posts abroad.

"Embassies have a very different feel," the diplomat said. "The people who come in are not the 'I'm Mr. Clever-Man-of-the-World who can talk about anything over dinner.' A lot of people are more practical. Someone who knows about training people to inspect baggage at airports. Cops who teach people to arrest robbers. People who know how to build dams."

In many countries, the embassy compound itself often becomes a community, taking on a personality, drawing energy from sources distant from the hum of diplomatic rounds. That makes the loss all the greater when tragedy hits.

"Especially in places like Africa, the embassy is more than an office building," the diplomat continued. "It's a place where a lot of emigre life takes place. You have people who teach at the American school, or people who have AIDS contracts."

Among the dead in Nairobi, details emerged Monday about O'Connor, 36, from Baton Rouge, La., a career Foreign Service officer who had been the second-ranking budget and fiscal officer at the embassy since 1996. The mother of three daughters, who was known as Michelle, she had served tours in Barbados, Ecuador and Uruguay.

The slain Americans were honored and mourned Monday by Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, who assembled State Department employees to say "farewell to friends from every part of our family."

"We're reminded," Albright said, "that foreign policy is not an abstraction carried out by acronyms, that in the final analysis it is conducted not by nations, departments or ministries, but by people."

(The Washington Post)

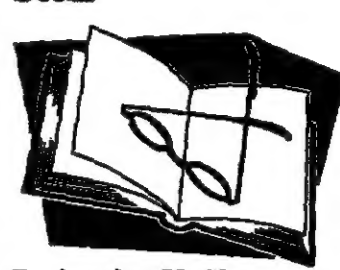


Rachel Basch, author of 'Degrees of Love,' says motherhood can be both 'mind-blowingly joyful' and 'lonely and isolating.'

(David Roberts/The Hartford Courant)

A mother's musings

Books



By Jocelyn McClurg

As an at-home mother with a "secret" writing life, Rachel Basch wrote her first novel on a bedroom desk that once doubled as a changing table and was wedged between a hamper and the door to a bathroom. The minute she finished writing for the day, she would put away her work so her kids could color on her desk.

"Forget a room of one's own; I didn't even have a table of my own!" Basch says with a laugh.

Basch, who is 39 and has a 9-year-old son and a 6-year-old daughter, poured her own intricate thoughts and emotions about modern motherhood and marriage into *Degrees of Love* (Norton, \$23.95), published in April.

Basch (pronounced BASH) lives in a handsome new home in Newtown, Conn., with her husband, David Gould, a free-lance golf writer, and their children, Nathaniel and Hannah.

The thin, youthful Basch, who has just baked scones, once cooked professionally like Lily Stencel, the troubled young wife and mother in *Degrees of Love*. Kitchens are pivotal places in *Degrees of Love*. Jack Keliher, Lily's husband, is a chef who has lost the couple's catering business. Lily has given up working side-by-side with Jack in professional kitchens to stay at home with their three young children. And the family's home kitchen becomes a place of horror when the couple's youngest child, 18-month-old Katie, pulls a pot of boiling water on herself, badly burning her feet and legs.

The fallout from this incident is immense. Lily, who was upstairs in the bedroom when Katie hurt herself, comes under suspicion of child abuse. Her husband is furious at her neglect, and their marriage strains to the breaking point, sagging under debt, distrust and the distance between them.

Their oldest son acts out in self-destructive ways after his sister is injured. And Lily's past mental instability becomes an issue during an investigation by the state of Massachusetts.

This difficult subject matter is handled with subtlety and sympathy by Basch, who creates believably human characters by alternating between Jack's and Lily's points of view.

"For me the book is more about marriage than it is about anything else," Basch says. "I believe you have to have parity, but parity can be a problem when one person is home all day, especially with very young children." Lily has lost part of her identity within the marriage by no longer working, and now she must face guilt over the burned baby.

The spark for *Degrees of Love* came from two sources—an article in *The New York Times* about a middle-class family wrongly accused of child abuse, and an incident Basch knew of in which a baby was accidentally burned by tap water by an older sibling.

Basch used the story line as a launching point for what she really wanted to explore in her novel—the emotion of guilt.

"It's that kind of existential parental guilt you wake up with every morning," Basch says. "It's the feeling that you are really responsible for another human being. Not only for their safety, but for the ongoing creation of them, especially when they're at a

certain age." Modern motherhood is no piece of apple pie. Women who have been on a career track and then have kids feel the need to "validate" their new lives, Basch says. "It's the professionalization of motherhood," she says.

"What is valid in our culture is making money, having a good job title. Motherhood is just down there at the bottom of the list," says Basch, who has been at home since her first child was born.

Basch had an outlet—her writing, which she started as a student at Wesleyan University in the 1970s. She grew up in Greenburgh, N.Y., near Scarsdale, and, after Wesleyan, studied writing at New York University. She wrote dozens of short stories but for years couldn't get them published.

After finally publishing two stories, including one in *Redbook* magazine, she decided to try the roomier form of the novel.

Basch also has periodically taught writing. But for all intents and purposes, her writing life echoed the kind of "secret life" many mothers have, she says. (Her children went to day care a few hours a week when they got a little older so she could write.)

Being a mother to young children is filled with ambivalence, Basch says. There are moments that are "mind-blowingly joyful"

and times when "it's lonely and isolating and repetitive."

"The ambivalence is never about whether or not you love them, it is about the intensity with which you love them and then how angry you can get at them, how frustrated you can feel," Basch says.

"I remember sitting on the edge of a sandbox and feeling like my heart was going to pound right out of my chest because I had all this energy for something else, and time with children can be very slow time. I was still in my early 30s. I wanted to get out there and tear up the world and it wasn't happening while I was sitting there at the edge of the sandbox."

For Basch, writing about motherhood was a way to deal with the mixed feelings, "which can be very unsettling, because we are not told that is OK to feel ambivalent."

While she was writing *Degrees of Love*, Basch was pregnant with a child that she and her husband very much wanted. The couple is still recovering from the heartbreak of losing the baby in 1995.

The very day she finished writing her novel, Basch knew something was wrong with her pregnancy. "I just went to the doctor's office and she had inexplicably died," Basch says. "And she was perfect. She was born two days later, and she was perfect." She is the Caroline of the dedication to *Degrees of Love*, "who was with me as much of this was being written." Basch thinks it's ironic that *Degrees of Love* is filled with a sense of loss, because when she finished the book she and her husband experienced their own devastating loss.

Now Basch has begun doing research for a new novel, which she says is about loss and faith.

"She wrote a short nonfiction essay about her husband's building a coffin for Caroline, but she says the new novel is unlikely to tackle the subject head-on."

"With that baby's death, it was like somebody slapped me across the face and I woke up and realized what was important," she says. "My relationship with my children has changed dramatically since we lost this baby. I don't take anything for granted. I always loved them but now I relish them in a way that I have to say only people who have lost children or have gone through hell to bring them into their lives probably feel." There's no ambivalence in that. (The Hartford Courant)

Burning energy fast and furious

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

There is no doubt that over the past two to three decades the US has been at the forefront of environmental action. The energy crisis of the Seventies, coupled with an apparently higher level of consciousness concerning the dangers of pollution, brought about a tidal wave of progress in several fields.

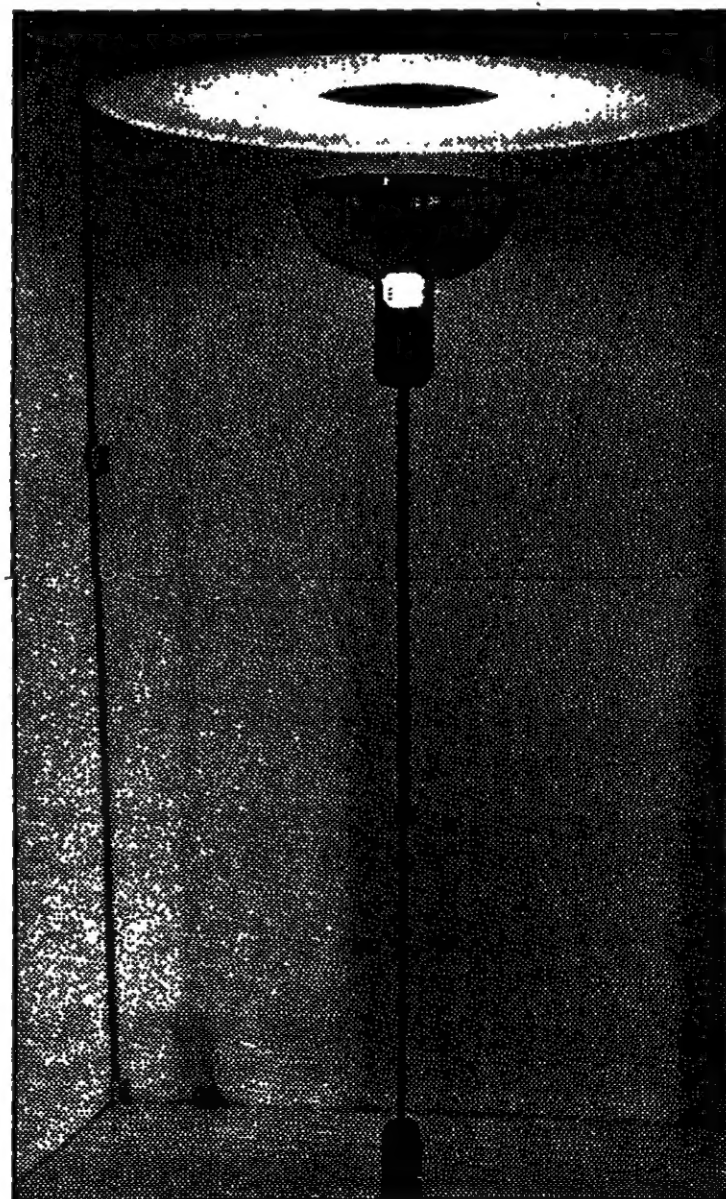
Between 1974 and 1988 the fuel economy of American vehicles nearly doubled, due to better engineering and in response to a public demand for more rigid standards, which were imposed.

Similarly, between 1988 and 1997, sales of new compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) increased eightfold. CFLs were a direct response to growing concerns about the pollution of air and water that generating electricity involved; the hottest item on the market was a bulb that gives as much light as the standard incandescent bulbs, but lasts far longer and uses only one-fourth as much electricity.

It is in recalling these significant advances that one cannot but be amazed at the latest market trends in the US.

First of all, sport-utility vehicles were, for various reasons, exempt from the newer and more rigid standards for fuel economy and the emission of pollutants. They pollute about three times as much as regular cars and use twice as much gasoline, yet these minivans and so-called "light trucks" have become so popular in the US that last year they accounted for a full 45 percent of all new vehicle sales there.

At the same time, high-wattage halogen floor lamps have become the lighting method of choice—any student who doesn't have this



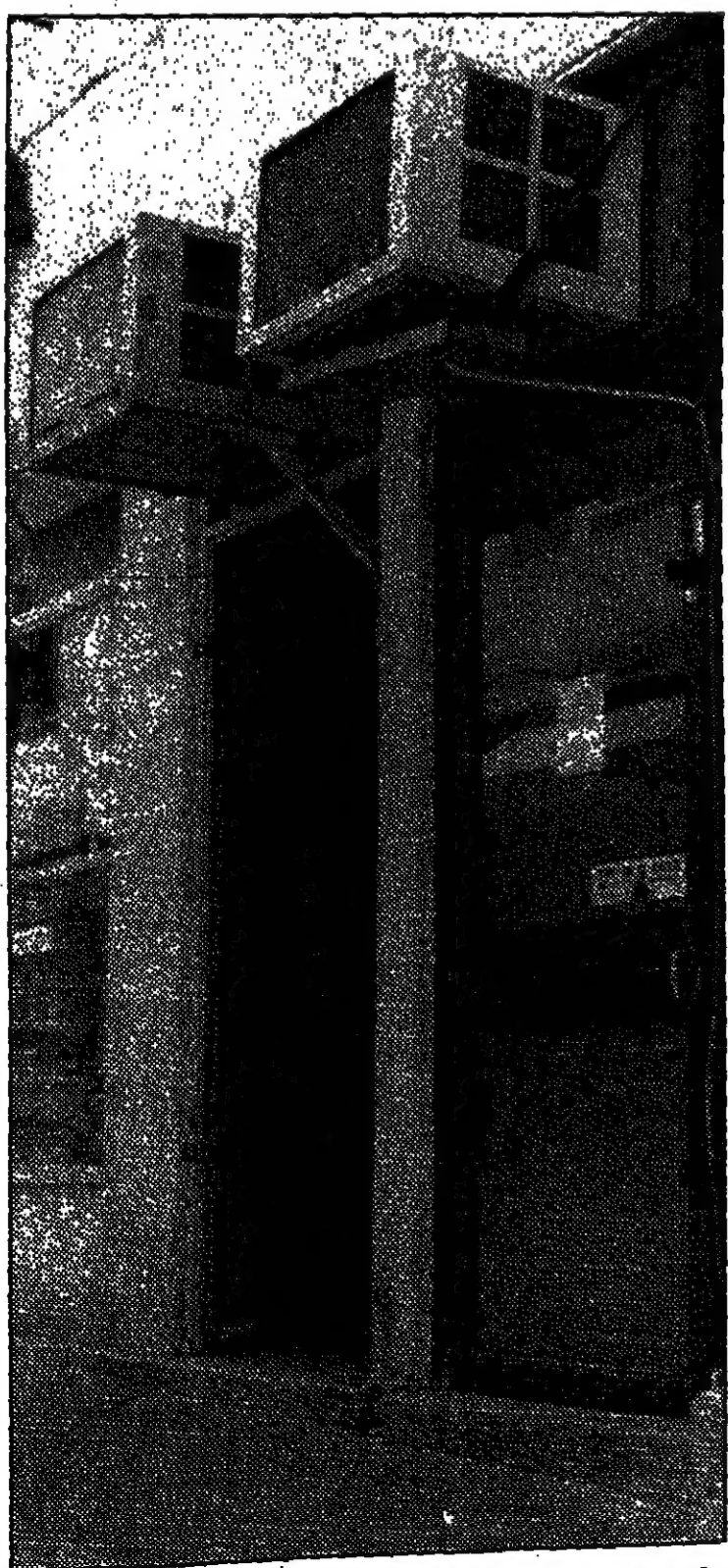
energy-consuming form of room illumination might as well be studying by candlelight as far as his or her peers are concerned. By now there are 40 million halogen floor lamps in use in the US and they are consuming much more electricity than the 280 million CFLs are saving.

Then there is the demand for air conditioning. Over the past 30 years, floor space in new single-family homes has doubled and this has more than doubled the capacity of the required heating and cooling systems. Even porches

and verandas are being closed and getting their own air-conditioning duct.

Interestingly enough, no one can seem to put a finger on the reason for these surprising trends. Certainly in this day and age, anyone who opts for a gas-guzzling vehicle or a high-wattage halogen lamp is aware of all the reasons for making a more environmentally conscious choice.

But still, the trend is there. Wasn't it the American poet e.e. cummings who wrote that "nothing recedes like progress"?



Air-conditioners and halogen lamps (right) may be comfortable, but they consume vast amounts of electricity.

Become a spy at the museum

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Attend a workshop at the Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem and you'll be made a "member" of the Mossad, CIA, FBI or MI5.

You'll also be given electronic devices that sound a siren when you pull a metal key out of its socket, and be supplied with various paraphernalia, including Velcro fasteners, sticky tape, scissors, rubber bands and string.

Your assignment, if you agree to accept it, is to attach sensors to the walls, windows and doors to prevent somebody breaking in from outside.

Counselors explain the basic idea to befuddled museum visitors who have been divided up into four groups assigned to a small "room," each made of partitions that lead to two others, giving them 10 minutes before all keys will be collected. You have to fig-

ure out how to keep the devices — motion sensors — from ringing without their keys, and to protect your room from invasion by "spies" next door.

The trick is to attach the sensors to the doors and windows at the exact angle that keeps them quiet — and in a way that this angle will be changed when an intruder pulls on a door handle or opens a window. Teams that protect their premises from the largest number of intruders and manage to break into the most neighbors' doors and windows are declared the winners.

This is just one of the activities that will keep you and the kids busy on a hot summer day at the Bloomfield Museum, which last month launched three new exhibitions (open through the High Holy Days) in addition to their regular hand-on exhibits.

The main exhibition is "Sense and Sensors," an imaginative collection of handmade devices that extend man's own five senses for various purposes. The second is a collection of impressive ultrasound images of fetuses in the womb produced by Dr. Ron Rabinovich of Shaare Zedek Hospital and artist Naomi Leshem. The third is a collection of seven interactive wooden "sculptures" that kids pull, push and sit on to make them work.

THE SENSOR exhibition, like all the others in the building, can be just played with — probed, buttons pushed and axles turned. But visitors will get much more out of them if they bother to read the scientific explanations for the phenomenon demonstrated by each item that are posted clearly nearby in Hebrew and English.

How do you make music on a beautiful wooden harp that has no strings? The instrument indeed produces different sounds because your fingers activate a dozen sensors on the vertical armature of the instrument, as if you had plucked strings.

There is also a wooden floor

over which visitors must step to avoid hitting spotlights that sound a bell when disturbed, and another with electronic "mines" hidden beneath that you must locate with a "mine detector" to get you to the other end safely.

A large glass hemisphere with a collection of electronic cars mounted with antennas takes up a considerable part of the hall. Four flashlights can be aimed at the cars from apertures in the glass; one quickly learns how to shine the light on sensors on the cars from a specific angle to activate their motors and make them come towards you. On a nearby table are two Bezeq phones with wires embedded below the display's surface that illustrates eavesdropping on someone's conversation.

A microscope connected to a video camera enables visitors to magnify anything and view it on a TV screen: just stick your finger or pen or a piece of newspaper over a peephole to see the amazing effects. Another video camera, which you can operate by remote control, takes pictures of the back of your head.

All these exhibits and more were built in the museum itself under the supervision of exhibition curator Dr. Amir Ben-Shalom and designer Hanan de-Langa.

Children will be fascinated by the ultrasound images of fetuses that present very human facial expressions and gestures, even though they are only a few weeks or months old.

Dr. Rabinovich, who has run Shaare Zedek's ultrasound institute for 10 years, said at the opening that he has developed a fascination with the images beyond their routine medical use for checking whether a pregnancy is normal and diagnosing congenital conditions in the fetus. An actual ultrasound machine was lent to the museum, and recorded images are displayed when a technician is on hand.

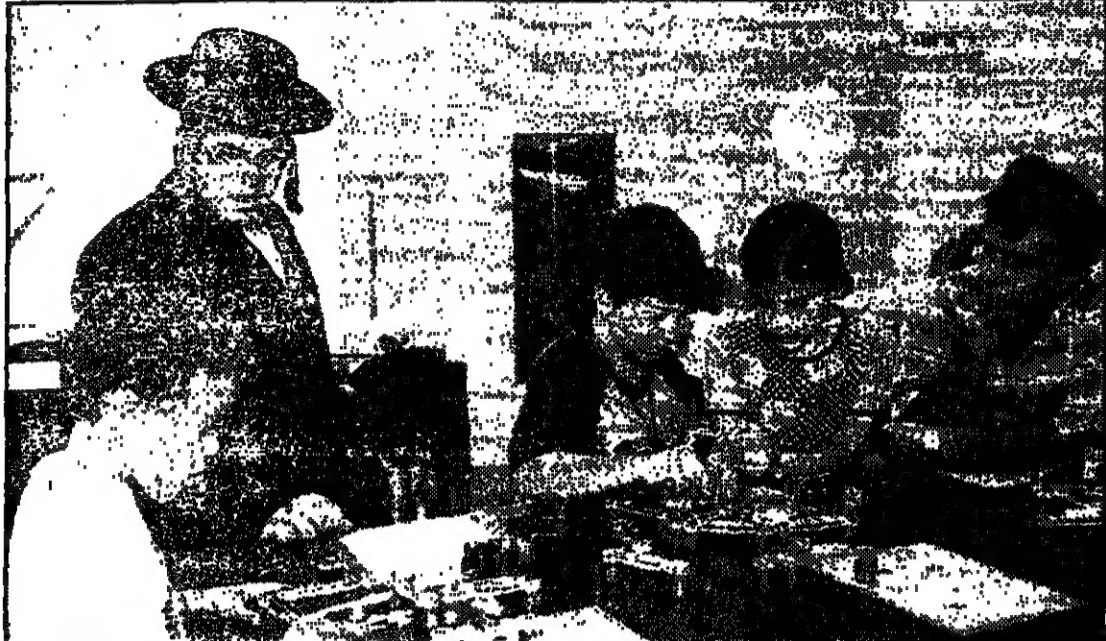
It will be hard to tear kids away from these hands-on exhibits, but



French artist Pierre Andres demonstrates how his wooden contraption works to a young fan at the museum. (Werner Braun)



How do you make music on a harp that has no strings? That's one of the challenges of a new interactive sculpture exhibit at Jerusalem's Bloomfield Science Museum. (Werner Braun)



The museum also offers young visitors a lesson in activating and de-activating sensors, then tests their spy skills. (Werner Braun)

Taming the microwave

By SUSAN S. LANG

Why do some foods, such as eggs, explode in a microwave oven? Why do microwave-heated TV dinners emerge with dried-out peas but frozen mashed potatoes? Why do microwaved French fries always come out soggy?

For the first time, a professor at New York's Cornell University has explained the fundamentals of these processes, and his calculations, he says, could turn microwaving into a predictable science, resulting in more appetizing and nutritious foods in the future.

Ashim Datta, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering, has developed mathematical and computer models to explain how different kinds of food, and properties such as shape and size, are affected by oven power and food placement during microwave heating.

"We believe that our models provide a quantum leap in understanding, simultaneously, how microwaves behave and their change in behavior as heating occurs," Datta says. Datta and his co-researcher, Cornell graduate student Hua Zhang, explained their find-

ings on heating patterns in microwave ovens to food scientists at the recent Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

They believe their models will enable manufacturers to formulate foods according to the most successful size and shape for microwaving and to issue far more accurate and precise microwaving instructions. They also think their findings will for the first time make microwave sterilization, for increasing the length of food storage, commercially possible. About 95 percent of US homes own a microwave oven, and food products for the ovens generate sales of more than \$4 billion a year.

"Many products have failed in the past because foods tend to get heated unevenly and unpredictably," Datta says.

About 90 percent of new microwaveable food products fail every year, he says. "Our comprehensive knowledge base should permanently help improve the US food industry's ability to deliver safer, more wholesome and higher quality convenience foods that are demanded by today's busy consumer," he says.

The two researchers' models provide a comprehensive description of what goes on in a microwave oven by linking the electromagnetic, heat transfer and the biochemical changes in heated foods inside the oven. Their calculations also indicate what produces non-uniform heating patterns during microwaving. For example, a frozen block of food does not absorb microwaves very well, but as it is heated and parts of the surface thaw, the thawed regions start absorbing more and more energy.

As a result, as the outer layer thaws and starts absorbing more and more energy, it serves as a sort of shield, preventing microwaves from getting to the inside of the food, says Datta. "We can now quantitatively predict why parts of the food may boil while other parts remain frozen." In the case of an egg and other round foods, Datta explains that their shape and size may result in the center getting heated first; if the food is dense, the pressure from the developing steam near the center may not be able to escape fast enough and could cause the food to explode.

"However, you would think

a larger ball would merely take longer to heat, but that's not true," Datta points out. "A small and large ball get heated in completely different ways, and our models quantify these phenomena."

Datta believes the findings are likely to make large improvements in the microwave sterilization of foods, by making foods more nutritious and tastier. To date, he notes, microwaving has not been used on a commercial scale because heating patterns have been too unpredictable.

Two years ago Datta reported on how moisture, heating rate and a food's porosity interact during microwave cooking to produce soggy or explosive foods. The updated models also take into account how the behavior of the microwaves and properties of the food constantly change during the process.

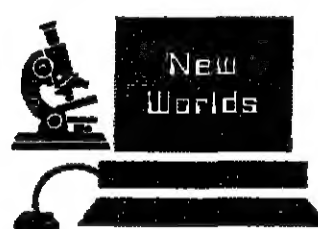
In a few months, Datta expects to have final calculations computed that relate the properties and size of a food item and its placement in the oven with what to expect in terms of heating and how to ensure that heating is more uniform. (Cornell University News Service)

12:20

SECS MIN MINS
10 1 10

1 Fish
1 Potato
1 Meal
1 Popcorn
1 Roast

START
STOP
CANCEL



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

If you think e-mail is overwhelming, prepare yourself for the next development: electronic bank checks.

The Sun computer company has developed a special server for transmitting e-checks over the Internet. The first server is now being installed at the Federal Bank in Boston, and it will send the first e-check soon.

Legally the same as a bank check on a piece of paper, it's the result of three years of cooperation among companies of the non-profit Financial Services Technology Consortium (FSTC), of which Sun is a member.

Sun and IBM developed a special version of a program used by banks for depositing paper checks so that it would be suitable also for e-checks.

The Federal Bank will accept electronic checks from two additional banks in which an IBM server has been installed.

The Sun server checks the digital signals, processes the check and credits the money to the person or company listed as the recipient. During the coming year, a market trial will test the efficacy of e-check technology.

The US Department of the Treasury will transfer some of its payments to government companies by sending e-checks over the Internet via the Sun server. The electronic checks are signed by the payer and can be endorsed by the recipient as well.

The electronic signatures, comprised of digital signals, are very difficult to forge, the company says.

E-checks are advantageous because of the speed in which they can be sent at a very low cost. The technology will allow many businesses to sell electronically without having to invest in new equipment, operating systems or new technologies.

LOTS OF SHALLOTS

Salads around the world are due to improve, thanks to Hebrew University scientists who have developed new, seed-propagated hybrid forms of shallot that promise to create a profitable new export crop for Israel.

Scientists at the university's faculty of agricultural, food and environmental quality sciences have been working on the shallot, a vegetable that is especially popu-

lar in France and Belgium, where it's used in preparation of sauces and soups and for seasoning. In some countries of southeast Asia and Africa, the shallot is raised as an alternative to onions. In Israel it's sold only occasionally, known in Hebrew as *betzatzal*.

Until now, shallots have been cultivated by planting bulbs that split off into little attached bulbets, ranging in number from seven to 15 per plant. But this method is disadvantageous, because of low yields, high storage costs and the spreading of plant disease in the ground.

Seed-propagated, hybrid forms of the plant were developed over a number of years by the HU scientists, with funding by the Agriculture Ministry, and the new strains were sent to food experts and leading chefs in France and England, winning high praise for their quality.

The new varieties were tested on a semi-commercial basis in kibbutzim and farms in various parts of the country, with yields exceeding that of shallot grown by traditional methods. The shallots strains they developed are especially suitable for propagation in Israel and tropical countries.

The new shallot hybrid plants will be offered to Israeli seed companies with the aim of encouraging export of both the vegetable itself and the seeds.

The research team that developed the new forms of shallot was headed by Prof. Haim Rabinowitch, who is an expert in vegetable physiology and breeding and dean of the agricultural faculty in Rehovot. He had help from agronomist Ada Harazi.

REX DONE DUNG IT

Fossilized feces left by a flesh-eating dinosaur about 65 million years ago are telling scientists where, how and what the ferocious *Tyrannosaurus Rex* ate in what is now Canada.

Until now, most scientists thought the mighty predator had torn apart its prey and swallowed it in big chunks, but the discovery of a giant chunk of droppings containing very small bone fragments has shown that the mighty creature chewed and crushed whatever it consumed.

"It's an exciting find," Peter Andrews, a research scientist at London's Natural History Museum, told Reuters. "I think it's important because it gives a new insight into what something like T-rex was doing."

The excrement chunk, 44 cm. long and 16 cm. across, was found in southwest Saskatchewan, 35 km. from the town of Eastend. It is twice as big as any previous carnivore feces ever found.

Check's not in the mail? Then it's on the Internet

Exerc home f

TOKYO HOSAKA

Exercise machines are rapidly becoming a household name. And many people have not paid much attention to the potential dangers of these devices pose to children.

The parents of a two-year-old boy from Staten Island, New York, filed a lawsuit just how dangerous exercise equipment can be. In September, the boy's skin was pulled off his hand when he reached for a treadmill. The boy was two years old, this time around, when he was caught in the front wheel of a bicycle in May 1995. Another child, a 3-year-old girl from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was pulled under a bicycle when it was caught in a manual exercise bike in December 1996.

In the past decade, the popularity of home exercise equipment has skyrocketed. According to a 1997 survey by the Fitness Products Institute, about one-third of all US households own some type of exercise equipment.

Treadmills, stationary bicycles and other exercise machines are the most popular, helping to bring in more than \$3 billion for manufacturers of exercise equipment. The sales of such equipment are expected to rise to \$5 billion by the year 2000.

Exercise machines are popular with young children, exercising them can pose a significant danger in the home.

In 1996, 17 people were killed and more than 32,000 people were injured in the country's emergency rooms, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The figure is a 10 percent increase from 1992, a study by the commission found that half of those injuries

Jerusalem's one-stop breast clinic offers comprehensive care

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Which medical facility diagnoses and treats a patient for cancer can determine whether a patient will live or die. In Britain, the quality gap among the various medical institutions is so wide that patients' chances of being treated in a effective center have been dubbed "the cancer lottery."

Variances in skill, equipment and attitudes towards patients between the most and the least successful oncology centers in Israel are considerably narrower, but they still exist.

A state-of-the-art, non-profit breast clinic that has just opened in Jerusalem will undoubtedly induce oncology and radiology departments in hospitals and health-fund clinics to improve. Called Hal'a ("Forward") for the Hebrew acronym of the Rachel Nash Jerusalem Comprehensive Breast Clinic, the facility was opened an incredibly short five months after the idea was first conceived. It is located in the new Beit Ofer office building at 5 Rehov Heftzadi in Givat Shaul.

M.S., a Jerusalem-area rabbi who has had to refer a number of women for treatment (and who insists on remaining anonymous), approached the Nash family of New York about the idea for such a facility, which is the only free-standing breast clinic (not part of a hospital or health-fund clinic) in Israel.

Jack and Helen Nash, well-known philanthropists who have made major donations to the Israel Museum, immediately decided to fund the clinic in the hope that it would substantially increase the number of women going for a

mammogram. They placed their complete trust in M.S., a powerhouse who located space, purchased equipment, hired staff and supervised the interior design.

Haredi Jews and Arabs — who make up a large percentage of the capital's population — tend to be reluctant to go for mammograms; the number of women in Jerusalem over 50 who accept their health fund's invitation for a breast scan every two years is significantly below the national annual figure of 40%. Thus, those who do contract breast cancer tend to be diagnosed at a later, more dangerous stage.

But the Nash clinic — directed by Dr. Shalom Strano, a leading breast-imaging specialist who is an immigrant from South Africa and wears a black kippa — is sure to lower the refusal rates, and, hopefully, increase cure rates.

ISRAEL CANCER Association director-general Miri Ziv noted that 2,400 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed here annually, and 800 women die from the disease each year.

"This is a national problem. When the patient is examined by an experienced, multi-disciplinary team, money is saved because there are many fewer false-positive results that require invasive testing."

She added that if women have to go to different places — various health-fund doctors and technicians and hospital outpatient clinics — they are confused and deterred from going for a mammogram.

"Women diagnosed with a suspicious lump were healthy yesterday and suddenly, they are suspected of being ill," Ziv said. "It's



A sophisticated X-ray viewer enables a radiologist to distinguish more easily between normal and pathological breast tissue at Jerusalem's new Nash clinic.

very scary. And without an interdisciplinary team in one place, the answers can take a relatively long time, causing unnecessary anxiety."

A handful of hospitals, such as Soroka in Beersheba, Rambam in Haifa and Ichilov in Tel Aviv, have established comprehensive breast clinics on their premises. Jerusalem's Hal'a clinic, however, is not only the newest, but the only one outside a hospital specifically designed to meet women's needs.

The clinic is modeled after the one-stop facility run by Dr. Larry Norton, a senior oncologist who directs the solid-tumor division of Sloane Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York City. He

flew here solely for the clinic's opening ceremony earlier this month and flew back to his patients that night.

The Nashes heard about the clinic idea from their daughter, who was first approached by the rabbi about the project.

"We liked it from the start — the idea of a philanthropic project run like a business, even though it's non-profit," said Jack Nash.

Nash recalled that his mother, Rachel, after whom the clinic was named, contracted breast cancer 30 years before her death in her 90s.

"After her surgery, we couldn't find her surgeon for 48 hours! I was furious. Sometimes empathy is lacking in the medical profession."

Norton, who said he was "extraordinarily impressed" by the clinic's facilities, took notes so he could purchase equipment and copy ideas he saw here. He predicted that it would "set standards in the world."

The most exciting technology he saw at the Hal'a clinic was the SmartLight mammography film viewer, developed by a new company in Nesher outside Haifa.

Conventional X-ray film contains a significant amount of hidden detail and gray shades, and when viewed on conventional light-boxes, contrast deteriorates dramatically because the glare washes out about half of the 100 gray levels.

But the SmartLight film viewer fully controls glare, light intensity and ambient light, and the same image is extremely clear, allowing the radiologist to see the difference between normal and pathological breast tissue.

The clinic also purchased two of Elscint's "Glory" mammography machines — among the most advanced in the world.

The Nash clinic, Norton added, "announces that here, the individual patient is important. By comparison, many medical facilities still put out the message that the doctors are most important. But stressing the individual changes the whole psychology of the disease."

STUDIES HAVE shown that the two greatest factors in recovery from the disease are high social integration — having support from family and friends — and the ability of the physician to convey confidence and optimism.

"Women must be made certain they will do well. They need connectedness," Norton said.

"There has been a revolution in breast care recently, with many phenomena coming together simultaneously: great advances in biology, with new approaches to diagnosis and surgery; the bringing of experts of various disciplines together; activism by women concerned with their health; and much greater willingness to discuss the disease."

"When I was in medical school, you didn't mention the word 'breast' in mixed company," he said.

The advantages of a comprehensive breast clinic are many, Norton adds. "I look at the mammography

films in my office, and can consult with other experts in the same building to decide what action to take. If they were spread about town, getting the things done could take days or weeks instead of hours, and the delay makes it the worst time in a woman's life.

"It's thrilling to tell a woman, in a matter of hours, that she doesn't have to worry... that it's just benign."

Strano expects that the Jerusalem clinic, which will be open twice a week until 8 p.m. and other days until 5, will be able to accommodate 80 women a day. He is currently negotiating to assure coverage from the four health funds, which he says will find it cheaper than the hospitals' and the insurers' own facilities.

The best news Norton has for women is that a new Eli Lilly drug named raloxifene (commercially known as Evista) shows signs of preventing breast cancer completely in 50 to 80 percent of high-risk women, which includes those over 60, even without a family history of the disease.

Norton says that raloxifene, which is prescribed for the prevention of osteoporosis in women, could be a major weapon in the battle against breast cancer.

Although the drug doesn't prevent menopausal women's hot flashes (which can be relieved with other drugs) and can cause phlebitis in a minority of women, he says evidence from tests on 10,000 women so far is that it protects against breast cancer.

If it's as successful as Norton thinks it is, it will eventually be impossible for health funds and governments to refuse to provide this drug to large numbers of women.



Lifting weights at home is convenient, but doing it unsupervised can be risky. In 1996, 17 people were killed and more than 32,000 injured using exercise equipment in the US. (Gideon Markovitz)

Exercise caution with home fitness equipment

TOMOKO HOSAKA

Exercise machines are rapidly sprouting up in basements and family rooms in many homes — and not only in those of the rich. But parents have not paid much attention to the potential dangers that these devices pose to their children.

The parents of a two-year-old boy from Staten Island, New York, learned the hard way just how dangerous exercise equipment can be.

Last September, the boy's skin was pulled off his hand when he touched the belt on a treadmill. Another two-year-old, this time from Johnson City, Tennessee, severed three fingers when his hand caught in the front wheel of an exercise bike in May 1995. And the hair of a 3-year-old girl from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was pulled from her scalp when it was caught in part of a manual exercise bike in December 1996.

In the past decade, the popularity of home exercise equipment has skyrocketed. According to a 1997 survey by the Fitness Products Council, about one-third of all US homes own some type of exercise equipment. Treadmills, ski machines, stationary bicycles and free weights were among the best-selling items, helping to bring in more than \$3 billion for manufacturers of exercise equipment. The growth in sales of such equipment is good news for fitness advocates, whose message of exercise is reaching more people. But for parents with young children, exercise machines can pose a significant safety threat in the home.

In 1996, 17 people were killed and more than 32,000 people were treated in the country's emergency rooms for injuries related to exercise equipment, according to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. The figure is an increase of more than 500% since a 1982 study by the commission. And about half of those injuries

occurred in children, mostly boys, up to the age of 15.

Health officials are quick to point out, though, that injuries related to exercise equipment represent only a small fraction of the childhood injuries that occur in the home. More common are the injuries and deaths that result every year from fires and burns, drownings, falls, chokings, suffocations and poisonings.

Nonetheless, the safety risks of exercise equipment were enough to shock Ed Quintana, an avid runner and father of two young children. He discovered the CPSC figures after he became concerned about using a treadmill in his home and decided to do some research on his own.

"The numbers astonished me," said Quintana, a 37-year-old El Paso accountant. So in what almost seems like a one-man mission to him, Quintana has for the past year written scores of letters to government officials, media and doctors' groups seeking to draw attention to the potential dangers of exercise equipment.

The alarm he sounded is faint in the research community, which has conducted less than a half-dozen studies on the topic. One of the most recent appeared in a 1994 issue of the *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*, which showed that injuries related to exercise equipment were "frequent and potentially severe."

Alan DeJong, a pediatrician at the Alfred I. duPont Institute in Wilmington, Delaware, co-authored the study and said he became interested in the issue after seeing two children in a six-week period with finger amputations caused by exercise bicycles.

"Most of the injuries are not life-threatening or permanently disabling," DeJong said. "We tend to focus more on automobile safety like seat belts and handgrip safety. This is something that does catch the minds of parents, but I think

from a medical or public health perspective, it's not seen as a major issue."

Gregg Hardy of the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association said the industry is aware of the potential problems of exercise equipment. He emphasized that safety is a big priority for manufacturers, who have placed a number of devices on their equipment to prevent injury.

"But it's virtually impossible to engineer a machine that you can't in some form or another hurt yourself on," Hardy said. "Users have to realize that exercise equipment is not designed for small children. It's not a jungle gym. Children should never be left unsupervised."

Here are some of the steps you can take to keep children from being injured by exercise equipment:

- Talk with them about the dangers and help them understand that the equipment is not a toy.
- Do not let them play with exercise equipment.

- Store exercise equipment in a place that is inaccessible to children, such as a locked room.

- When not using the equipment, make it impossible by unplugging items that require electricity or removing keys if they are included.

- When exercising, keep children away from the moving equipment.

- When buying an exercise bicycle, choose one that has a solid or spokeless wheel. Make sure that the chain and sprocket wheel assembly is covered with a protective guard, and check to ensure that the oil holes for the chain and sprocket are smaller than an infant's finger.

Carefully read the instruction and safety manual that comes with your exercise machine so that you understand the best ways to keep it safe. Try to replace old exercise equipment with newer, safer machines. (The Washington Post)

New system can tell doctors where it hurts

Health Scan



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

A computerized system, said to be the first of its kind in the world, measures the level of pain in infants, patients in intensive care and others who can't report how much it hurts.

The system was developed recently by Dr. Reuven Levinsky of Haifa's Bnai Zion Hospital, with help from the Technion's electrical engineering faculty.

The system is composed of a series of integrated devices, including a new type of heartbeat monitor.

Levinsky, a senior staffer in the hospital's obstetrics/gynecology department, notes that the heartbeat is not completely regular, even in healthy people. There are, in fact, three types of neural systems that affect regularity of the heartbeat.

Conventional monitors used in hospitals today can show the three influences together, rather than separately. The new heartbeat monitor, however, can separate each influence, allowing two important functions: diagnosing toxemia during pregnancy and measuring the amount of pain patients suffer.



An infant can't tell you where it hurts, but a new Israeli computerized system can. (Isiah Karlinitsky)

A by-product of the system is that doctors can estimate almost exactly the efficacy of medications given for pain.

The system was tried on patients undergoing epidural anesthesia during active delivery and later, when the anesthesia has the most effect. Measurements showed full coordination between the levels of pain reported by the patient at each stage of anesthesia.

CAUTERIZING TUBES

A new technique for tying

women's Fallopian tubes as a permanent method of contraception in those who have completed their families has been used for the first time in Israel at Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin.

The short operation, performed by Dr. Moti Pansky of the hospital's gynecological endoscopy unit, requires no stitches and uses laparoscopy.

An advanced optical system is introduced via the navel, and the tubes are cauterized. This form of contraception is meant for women

who aren't interested in or can't use other contraceptive methods but who don't want any more children. Since it can be performed with local anesthesia, it eliminates the danger of a general anesthetic.

Prof. Jan Bukovsky, head of the hospital's gynecology and obstetrics department, said the new technique is a significant advance in safety, and that many women refused to undergo sterilization because they feared a general anesthetic.

Praise children for effort, not grades

By DAVID PERLIN

Parents naturally believe that praising their children for good grades and high marks has only beneficial effects.

But new research illustrates that complimenting children for their intelligence and academic performance may lead them to believe that high test scores and grades are more important than learning and mastering something new.

While lauding a child's scholastic aptitude is intended to boost their academic performance, it leaves them ill-prepared for coping with setbacks, according to research published in the July issue of the *American Psychological Association's (APA) Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Columbia University psychologists Dr. Claudia Mueller and Dr. Carol Dweck conducted six studies of 412 fifth-graders in which they compared the goals and achievement behaviors of children praised for intelligence with those praised for effort or hard work under conditions of failure as well as success.

Through their studies, the psychologists demonstrated that com-

mending children for their intelligence after good performance might backfire by making them highly performance-oriented and thus extremely vulnerable to the effects of subsequent setbacks.

On the other hand, children who are commended for their effort concentrate on learning goals and strategies for achievement.

The researchers also observed that children who were commended for their ability when they were successful learned to believe that intelligence is a fixed trait that cannot be developed or improved. The children who were explicitly commended after their successes were the ones who blamed poor performances on their own lack of intelligence.

However, when children praised for their hard work performed poorly, they blamed their lack of success on poor effort and demonstrated a clear determination to learn strategies that would enhance subsequent performances.

DR. DWECK, lead author of the study, claims that some of our basic beliefs about how to increase children's self-esteem and achievement are misguided.

"Praising children's intelligence, far from boosting their self-esteem, encourages them to embrace self-defeating behaviors, such as worrying about failure and avoiding risks," she notes.

"However, when children are taught the value of concentrating, strategizing, and working hard when dealing with academic challenges, this encourages them to sustain their motivation, performance, and self-esteem."

The studies demonstrated that children who are praised for their intelligence learn to value performance, while children praised for their effort and hard work value learning opportunities.

Virtually all of the findings were similar not only for boys and girls but also among children from several different ethnic groups in rural and urban communities.

In addition, the differing effects resulting from praise for effort and praise for ability were unrelated to children's ability, for children with low test scores were equally likely to stress performance goals as children with high scores.

The researchers believe that their findings may demonstrate why bright young girls who do well in

grade school often perform poorly in upper grades. They note that in their desire to bolster young girls' confidence in their abilities, educators have praised them for their intelligence which, these studies have shown, could have an undesired impact on their subsequent motivation and performance.

Labeling children as gifted or talented may also have a negative impact on them.

Such labeling may be the cause of children becoming overly concerned with justifying that label and less concerned with meeting challenges that enhance their learning and mastery skills. They may begin to believe that academic setbacks indicate that they do not deserve to be labeled as gifted.

The authors advise that gifted and talented programs should emphasize meeting challenges, applying effort, and searching for new learning strategies.

The authors suggest that when students succeed, attention and approval should be directed at their effort and hard work. Children should be praised for how they do their work rather than for the final product or their ability, the researchers say. (American Psychological Association)

ISRAELI SHARES
ABROAD

LAST CHANGE

AMEX

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US stocks fall on overseas worries

New York

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks fell, long-term bond interest rates hit a record low and the dollar rose on Friday as investors sought safe havens amid worries about Russia, Asia and the White House sex scandal.

"People are a little nervous going into the weekend because of the overseas situation in the Far East and Russia," Kenneth Ducey, director of trading at BT Brokerage, said.

"Investors want to save some buying power in case something happens over the weekend. The market has been struggling all day after a nice start and J.P. Morgan had held it up," he said.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed off 34.50 points, or 0.4 percent, at 8,425.00. The blue-chip index is down 173.02 this week, after falling 285.27 last week. The Nasdaq composite index closed down 12.35 points, or 0.69 percent, at 1,790.19. The index was off 56.58 points, or 3 percent, on the week.

Stocks rallied early on relief that Russian and Asian shares steadied overnight. Rumors that J.P. Morgan & Co. could be in merger talks with a European bank buoyed the Dow.

But momentum fizzled by mid-session and blue chips slumped near the close on program selling in turbulent trading.

Europe

LONDON (Reuters) - Fears that European stocks will fall for a fifth week from next Monday persisted, despite markets rallying on Friday after the Russian and Hong Kong governments fought back against devaluation pressures.

A vow by Russian President Boris Yeltsin not to devalue the rouble and action by the Hong Kong government to wring foul currency speculators calmed nerves at the end of a volatile week that wiped as

STOCKS

Dow Jones 8425.00 -0.4%
FTSE 5455.00 -1.03%
Nikkei 15123.93 -1.68%

much as three percent off Europe's biggest stock markets.

But the rally may prove just a temporary respite from concern that emerging market problems will trigger a global economic slowdown, traders said.

In the stock markets, London's FTSE 100 share index closed at 5,455 points, up 55.5, or 1.03 percent, but off 225.4 points on the week.

The German DAX index closed at 5,447.9 points, up 91.67 or 1.71 percent. The CAC 40 index in Paris closed at 3,994.91 points, up 43.22 or 1.09 percent, down 46.97 on August 7. Volume was a subdued 6.5 billion francs.

Most other leading European stock indexes also rose, but ended the week down for the fourth time in succession.

But the markets' gains were small in the context of recent losses. Since reaching all-time highs four weeks ago, the FTSE and DAX have fallen around 12 percent and the CAC more than nine percent.

"You've got to understand that everybody is still nervous," said one dealer in Frankfurt. "But we didn't fall back as far as everyone thought when this started and we could be on dry ground for a while."

Friday's rally came on the heels of an 8.5 percent advance in Hong Kong stocks and a 13.7 percent gain in Russia.

Asia

HONG KONG (AP) - Most Asian stock markets ended the week higher Friday, with the key index in Hong Kong soaring 8.5 percent after the government made a rare intervention to prop up the market.

After shedding 16 percent of its value and falling to a five-year low in the first two weeks of August, the Hang Seng Index rose 564.27 points to close at 7,224.69.

On Thursday, the index slumped 199.06 points, or 2.9 percent.

Financial Secretary Donald Tsang confirmed after the market closed that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the territory's de facto central bank, had intervened in the stock and futures markets.

He said this was done to fend off recent speculative attacks on the Hong Kong dollar, which have caused local interbank interest rates to rise and shares to plummet.

Tseng emphasized that Hong Kong's "long-standing policy of non-intervention" in the stock and futures markets remained unchanged.

Tokyo stocks tumbled to a seven-week low, led by electronics companies, following declines on Wall Street.

The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average fell 258.09 points, or 1.68 percent, to close at 15,123.93 - its lowest since June 24. On Thursday, the Nikkei index edged up 3.05 points, or 0.02 percent.

Comments by the International Monetary Fund that Japan's economic policies are not enough to pull its economy out of recession also dampened investor sentiment, analysts said.

Elsewhere: TAIPEI: Share prices closed slightly lower after a renewed pullback on Wall Street overnight. The market's key Weighted Price Index fell 14.51 points, or 0.19 percent, to 7,348.04.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.080
German mark (DM 200,000)	5.550	5.540	5.820
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.080	0.190	0.580
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (14.8.98)

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Flight arrivals - for information in English 03-972-5344.

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WHERE TO GO

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Singh looking for redemption at PGA

REDMOND, WA (AP) — The second round of the PGA Championship turned into a second chance for Vijay Singh and Colin Montgomerie.

Both of them know the pain of coming close to winning their first major. By keeping it straight and simple at Sahalee Country Club, both of them got into contention once again Friday.

Singh made five birdies on the first nine holes and matched the course record that Tiger Woods set the day before, a 4-under-par 66 that put him at 136 going into the weekend.

"Each year you play, you gain a little more experience, a lot more know-how to handle a situation like I'm in now," said Singh, who came up two strokes short of a playoff in the 1993 PGA Championship.

Right behind him was Montgomerie, in pursuit of his first major championship and in contention for the first time since he lost by one stroke to Ernie Els in the US Open last year.

He made three key par saves in a round of 67 that put him at 137, along with Scott Gump and Steve Stricker.

"I haven't come over here to finish second," said Montgomerie, who has done just that in three previous majors.

The high, heavenly ground of Sahalee was full of high hopes for a couple of players chasing history.

Davis Love III is trying to become the only repeat winner since the PGA went to stroke play in 1958 and the first since Denny Shute in 1937. He worked his way into the hunt with a 68 that put him just two strokes back at 138, along with Tiger Woods, Brad Faxon, Andrew Magee and former PGA champion Steve Elkington.

And never count out Mark O'Meara, undaunted by the pressure of trying to become the first player since Ben Hogan in 1953 to win three majors in one season.

Just like he did in winning the Masters and the British Open, the 41-year-old O'Meara just plugged along until making a thrilling move that thrust him to 3-under, one off the lead.

Woods couldn't hold a first-round lead for the second straight major. He followed a 65 in the British Open with a 73.

And one day after making seven birdies at Sahalee, he didn't get his first until the 16th.

"I made a lot of putts just to hang in there," Woods said. "I'm only two back, and that's perfect. That's where I need to be."

Stricker became only the fourth player to reach 5-under at Sahalee, but it didn't last long.

After four birdies on the first seven holes on the back nine gave him the lead, he took double bogey at No. 17.

Glen Day followed four straight bogeys with two straight birdies to get to 2-under with two holes to play.

As Woods proved early in his round Friday, that's not always easy.

He left the driver in his bag once again, but that wasn't the problem. Woods missed a birdie putt on the second hole, three-putted on No. 4 and took another bogey after hitting his 3-wood into the rough on the par-4 sixth.

Woods took 34 putts on Friday, after needing 27 the day before.

Singh, who has won five times on the PGA Tour and 18 other times around the world, was a relative unknown in the PGA in 1993 when he finished out of the playoff at Inverness, which Paul Azinger won over Greg Norman.

The group at 139 included Frank Lickliter, David Frost and John Cook and Glen Day. No one else was under par with about 36 players still on the course.

Phil Mickelson took a double bogey on the par-5 second hole but still managed a 70 and was at even-par 140. Paul Azinger needed a birdie-birdie finish to salvage a 73 and was at 141.



SECOND-ROUND LEADER — Vijay Singh tees off at the 18th hole en route to shooting a four under 68 during the second round of the PGA Championship. (Reuters)

Sampras tops Spadea; Hingis in semis Tyson withdraws bid in NJ, heads for Las Vegas

MASON, OH (AP) — Pete Sampras breezed past upstart Vince Spadea 6-3, 6-2 on Friday in the ATP Championship to advance to yesterday's semifinals of the \$2.45 million tournament.

Sampras, the tournament's top seed and the world's second-ranked player, needed just 48 minutes to defeat Spadea.

For Spadea, the defeat ended an impressive week. He beat eighth-ranked Richard Krajicek on Thursday and No. 9 Andre Agassi on Wednesday.

It was the first time Spadea has beaten top-10 players back to back in the same tournament. He said those matches took a toll on his performance against Sampras.

Patrick Rafter reeled off three consecutive points, the first two on service breaks, to beat Petr Korda

in a second-set tiebreaker and move into the semifinals with a 6-4, 7-6 (10-8) victory.

The fifth-seeded Rafter, who is ranked No. 3 in the world and is the reigning US Open champion, was slated to meet Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov in one of yesterday's semifinal matches.

Kafelnikov earned his semifinal berth with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over unseeded Daniel Vacek, ranked No. 53 in the world.

In Friday's first quarterfinal matchup of two unseeded players, Sweden's Magnus Larsson continued his two-year domination of his countrymen and moved into the semifinals with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-2) victory over Thomas Johansson.

Hingis, Davenport win Martina Hingis, motivated by some harsh words from Richard

Williams, beat Serena Williams 6-4, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the Acura Classic in Manhattan Beach, California.

The world's No. 1 player saw Richard Williams, the father and coach of teen sensations Venus and Serena, on television saying how he wanted Hingis and Serena to play here.

"I think Serena would kick her butt, going and coming," the elder Williams said.

Hingis giggled at the comment, part of which was bleeped because of an expletive.

"I don't think she did it," the 17-year-old Swiss player said after advancing to yesterday's semifinals against No. 3 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Sanchez, Vicario, headed the dream run of Elena Tatarkova of Ukraine with a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

Tatarkova, ranked 63rd in the world, got into the main draw as a lucky loser when Mary Pierce withdrew because of injury.

Second-seeded Lindsay Davenport, winner of two straight tournaments in California, defeated No. 8 seed Natasha Zvereva 6-2, 6-3 in a 55-minute night match. She'll meet fourth-seeded Monica Seles in the other semifinal. Seles advanced with a 6-4, 6-4 win over No. 5 Nathalie Tauziat on Thursday.

The Williams sisters and their father have irritated some players on the WTA Tour with their gamesmanship and brash remarks. Hingis didn't blame Serena for her father's comment, saying she gets along with her better than she does with Venus.

"When she's alone, I like her. She's a nice girl, but the people around her ... talk too much."

ATLANTIC CITY (AP) — Unpredictable Mike Tyson once again has left the boxing world bewildered.

This time, it's because of a surprising last-minute decision to give up his bid for a New Jersey boxing license in favor of returning to Nevada.

The *Star-Ledger* of Newark, citing unidentified sources, said state Athletic Control Board members were leaning toward denying Tyson a license, so he withdrew his application the night before the vote.

The 32-year-old Tyson hasn't fought since biting Evander Holyfield's ears during a title fight at Las Vegas last year.

Nevada regulators revoked his license and fined him \$3 million, leaving him eligible to apply for a new license after a year.

But he chose to apply in New Jersey instead, prompting criticism from many boxing people who said he should have returned to the scene of the bite to seek his redemption.

The Athletic Control Board heard more than three hours of testimony from Tyson and his supporters July 29, but delayed a decision. They were to render one Friday, but Tyson's lawyer announced late Thursday that he had withdrawn the application and would seek a Nevada license.

The *Star-Ledger* reported that board chairman Gerard Gormley and board member Gary Shaw — the two who were to vote — were deadlocked on whether to grant the license, and that the "yes" vote for Tyson was shaky.

The two may have felt pressured because of anti-Tyson comments made by Gormley's brother, state Sen. William Gormley, and another lawmaker, the newspaper said.

Sen. Gormley, who said earlier in the week that Tyson shouldn't be licensed, defended his comments Friday.

Asked if they might have swayed board members, he said: "I don't know. The whole world got to see the comments. I was asked my opinion and I voiced it."

Sar-Tov wins wheelchair tennis

By HEATHER CHAIT

Eyal Sar-Tov and Dina Tsemach were the men and women's victors in the Sixth Globus Jerusalem Wheelchair Tennis Tournament at the Israel Tennis Center in Jerusalem yesterday.

Top-seed Sar-Tov, who is ranked seventh among the world's wheelchair players, barely worked up a sweat, even under the blazing sun, beating Shimon Uzeri 6-1, 6-1.

Tsemach was on court for just under three hours, in a prolonged struggle against Zehava Padnes. Tsemach lost the first set but returned to see out the match 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Sar-Tov won a weekend for two, sponsored by Caesar Hotels while Tsemach picked up an air ticket to Europe.

The winners in the other groups were Haim Lev (A), Doron Paschowitz (B), Amir Levy (C) and Shlomo Ben Simon (Q).

Forty-three adults and thirty children participated in the tournament, named after Israel Globus, a well-known wheelchair basketball and tennis player.

Wheelchair tennis has the same rules as ordinary tennis except that the ball is allowed to bounce twice.

The event was sponsored by ILAN, the Sports Center for the Disabled, in Ramat Gan.

Webber fined for marijuana possession

SAN JUAN, PR (AP) — Chris Webber of the Sacramento Kings was fined \$500 for carrying a small amount of marijuana that was detected by dogs at the airport, customs officials said Sunday.

Webber had 11 grams of marijuana in his luggage when he was detained yesterday.

Webber was traveling with Jerry Stackhouse of the Detroit Pistons and other athletes on a trip sponsored by the sporting goods company Fila.

This is the latest in a series of legal problems for Webber, who was unwillingly traded in May from the Washington Wizards to Sacramento.

Hoiles hits 2 grand slams in O's romp; pinch hit delivers Reds

CLEVELAND (AP) — Chris Hoiles became the ninth major leaguer and first catcher to hit two grand slams in a game Friday night, leading the Baltimore Orioles to a 15-3 rout of the Cleveland Indians.

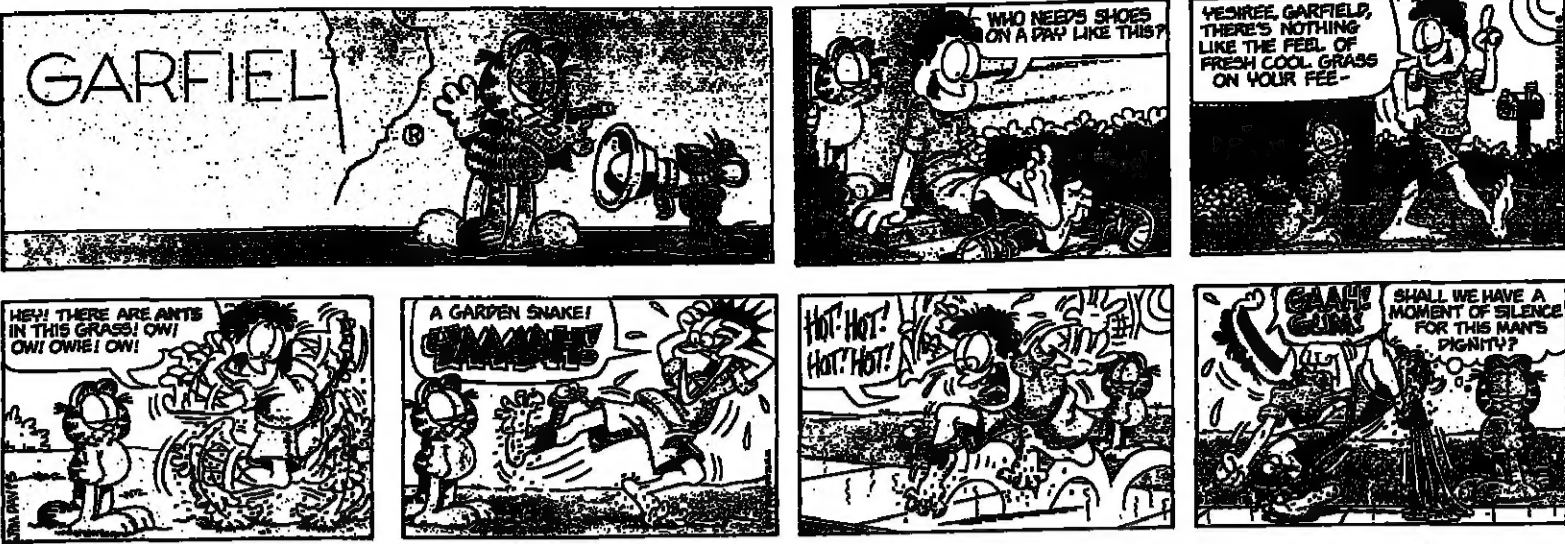
Hoiles hit his seventh career grand slam in the third off Charles Nagy (10-8), who yielded 11 of Baltimore's runs. With two outs in the eighth against left-hander Ron Villone, Hoiles hit a 406-foot shot to left on a 3-2 pitch that sailed inside the foul pole to tie the record.

Robin Ventura of the Chicago White Sox was the last player to hit two grand slams, in September 1995 against Texas. Hoiles is the third Orioles player to do it, joining Jim Gentile and Frank Robinson.

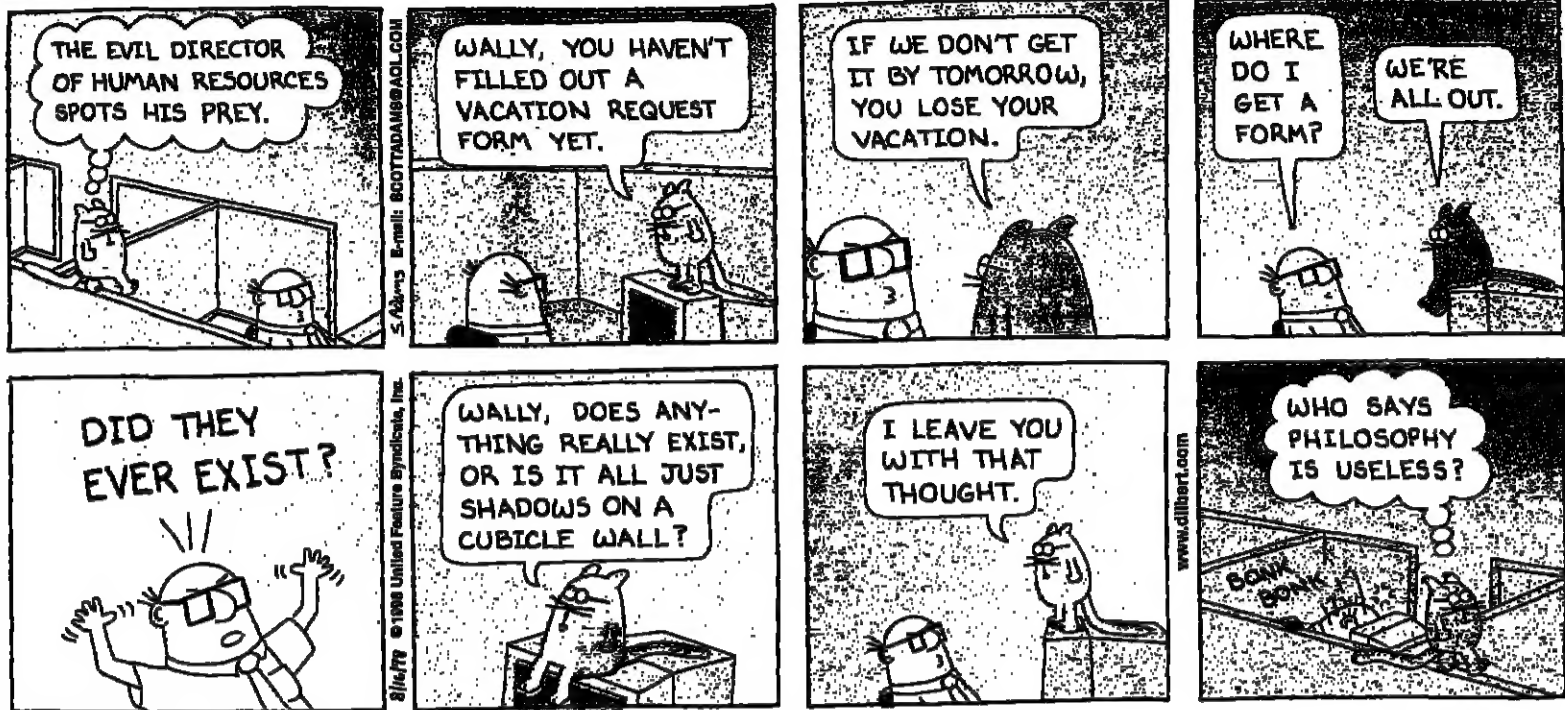
Eric Davis led off Baltimore's five-run third with a single to extend his hitting streak to 29 games, longest in the majors this season.

Tigers 13, Athletics 4
Damon Easley hit his first career grand slam to help host Detroit snap a nine-game losing streak.

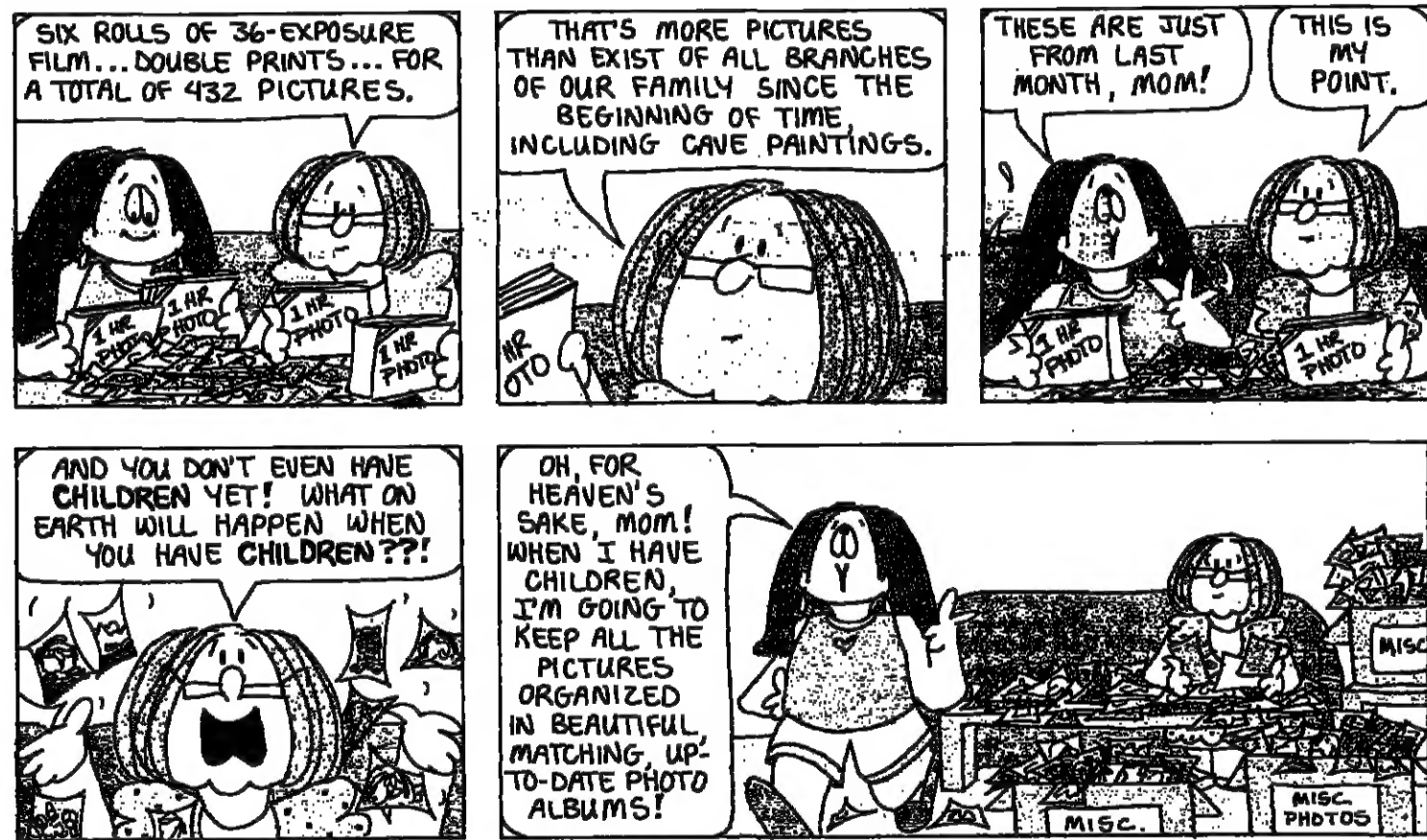
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DILBERT



CATHY



Calvin and Hobbes



CRITICS' CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Hair may be a little dated, but its anti-war theme is still relevant, and the precedent-breaking musical by Jerome Ragney and MacDermott has clever lyrics and tunes that people still hum. The Beit Zvi production, with the book translated by the wordmaster Ehud Manor and directed by Gad Inbar, is at the Ramat Gan Theater tonight and all week at 8:30 p.m. Friday at 3 p.m.

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** **HE GOT GAME** - In Spike Lee's new film, basketball is depicted as nothing less than the physical embodiment of the American dream—since talent, determination and desire on the court can mean glory and riches for anyone, no matter his color or class. The director's relation to that myth, though, is never straightforward, for better and for worse: is it a dangerous, corrupting myth? A necessary, hope-giving myth? As often in a Lee movie, it's not always clear where thoughtful

Basketball embodies the American dream in 'He Got Game.'

ambiguity gives way to muddy ideas, where the display of genuine feeling turns into melodramatic manipulation and where the filmmaker's angry radicalism degenerates into the angling of a cynical entrepreneur. While this picture is riddled with conceptual problems and, more seriously, marred by lousy technique, it also features occasional bursts of sentiment so strong and raw, it subverts a more formal critique. With Denzel Washington, who brings a brooding wisdom to the role of a convicted murderer whose basketball-star son refuses to acknowledge his father. In his acting debut, the Milwaukee Bucks guard Ray Allen has an unassuming, slightly stiff presence that is also surprisingly effective. (Children under 17 not admitted without an adult)

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

8:05 Ravel: *Alborada del Gracioso*; Beethoven: *Sonata no. 3 for Cello and Piano*; Bach: *Invention for Anna Magdalena*; 10:05 *Classical*; 11:05 *Classical*; 12:05 *Classical*; 13:05 *Classical*; 14:05 *Classical*; 15:05 *Classical*; 16:05 *Classical*; 17:05 *Classical*; 18:05 *Classical*; 19:05 *Classical*; 20:05 *Classical*; 21:05 *Classical*; 22:05 *Classical*; 23:05 *Classical*; 24:05 *Classical*; 25:05 *Classical*; 26:05 *Classical*; 27:05 *Classical*; 28:05 *Classical*; 29:05 *Classical*; 30:05 *Classical*; 31:05 *Classical*; 32:05 *Classical*; 33:05 *Classical*; 34:05 *Classical*; 35:05 *Classical*; 36:05 *Classical*; 37:05 *Classical*; 38:05 *Classical*; 39:05 *Classical*; 40:05 *Classical*; 41:05 *Classical*; 42:05 *Classical*; 43:05 *Classical*; 44:05 *Classical*; 45:05 *Classical*; 46:05 *Classical*; 47:05 *Classical*; 48:05 *Classical*; 49:05 *Classical*; 50:05 *Classical*; 51:05 *Classical*; 52:05 *Classical*; 53:05 *Classical*; 54:05 *Classical*; 55:05 *Classical*; 56:05 *Classical*; 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